LIBRARY REDEEMER COLLEGE
777 GARNER RD.E. Dec 99
ANCASTER, ON
L9K 1J4

CHRISTIAN COURIER
A Reformed Biweekly

54th Year of Publication | February 22, 1999 | No. 2606 $1.60

REDEEMER COLLEGE LIBRARY
FEB 23 1999
CHRISTIAN COURIER
PER/BX/9401/.C36

EDUCATION ISSUE

Poetry helps women heal and grow

BARBARA MITCHELL

Mary Elizabeth Lauzon

Jessie Schut

CALGARY – Creative writing has long been used as a tool for self-discovery. The poet Lord Byron, legendary for his tempestuous life, expressed it well when he said, "Poetry is the lava of the imagination whose eruptions prevent the earthquake."

Now a Calgary woman is teaching young women to write poetry that helps them make sense of their own very stormy lives. Mary Elizabeth Lauzon works with women who are trying to get away from a life of prostitution. They have enrolled in a 13-week residential program run by a Catholic agency to help them heal and to learn new life skills.

Once a week they engage in a 90-minute session of poetry therapy with Lauzon, a published poet, workshop leader, writer and committed Christian. She's seen beautiful things happen in the lives of the women as the weeks progress. In the beginning they don't want to write, she says, but by the end, they call themselves poets.

They write on their own time, they share their writing with each other, they proudly publish it in newsletters.

"Poetry is a non-threatening tool," Lauzon explains. "Maybe they won't let other kinds of therapy into their lives, but they can write about hypothetical

See **WOMEN** *page 2...*

BERT WITVOET

"What an awful book!" Beacon Christian High School, St. Catharines, Ont., drama students, under the direction of teacher Jennifer Wright, act out "aversion to a modern novel." (See pp. 14-17)

Heartland Forest: a dream comes true

Alan Doerksen

NIAGARA FALLS, Ont. – The dream of a businessman in Niagara Falls may soon be coming true. Six years ago, Dan Bouwman caught a vision for starting a Christian resort and convention centre that would allow visitors to the Falls to meet the Creator while enjoying the beauty of creation. Now the project, called Heartland Forest Niagara, is well under way, but supporters need to raise $155 million for construction costs.

Bouwman and his colleagues would like Heartland Forest to become the world's premiere Christian destination. Once construction is completed, the resort will house a conference centre, a 5,000-seat amphitheatre, an indoor water park, a sports complex, nature trails, cottages and camping facilities. One feature will be a "Noah's Ark" museum, which will give a clear presentation of creation. The centre will host Christian events, concerts and conferences.

"We want to provide a retreat for individuals, families and groups to connect – a comfortable environment in which people will explore and develop their faith," explains Bouwman. "Niagara Falls is such a beautiful part of this creation, and a wonderful place to get to know the Creator. I see in Heartland Forest a place where we as parents can bring our children and tell them how much we love them."

Heartland Forest is a major project, but it started with an idea Bouwman got while attending a church leadership conference at the Crystal Cathedral in Garden Grove, California in 1993. While at the conference, says Bouwman, one man challenged his listeners, "If you have blessings, what are you doing with them, and if you have talents, what are you doing with them?"

This got Bouwman thinking about the hurting people he met in his successful produce business. "He often found himself searching for words to help encourage them," says a Heartland Forest newsletter. "These were people that he knew would not feel comfortable attending church. Yet there must be a relevant way to reach them."

Praying and brainstorming

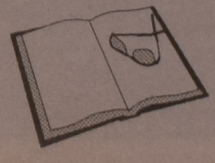
Finding a quiet place, Bouwman prayed and wrote down ideas which would become the groundwork for Heartland Forest. Later on, he shared his ideas with friends at the conference. One of them gave him this advice: "You have on your paper a list of names [of Christian business people from all denominations]. Go back home ... share your vision and project. If they think you're crazy, then it's your idea. But if they tell you to carry on and if they want to be part of this, you'd better keep going. That means it's the Lord's will."

Bouwman followed his friend's

See **HEARTLAND** *page 3...*

Stories told out of school ..... pp. 9, 12
CC directory of Christian schools ..... pp. 10, 11, 18, 19

Are Christian high schools avoiding the contemporary novel? ..... pp. 14, 15
Catcher in the Rye, anyone? ..... p. 16



News

Women experience healing through the Word and words

... *continued from page 1*

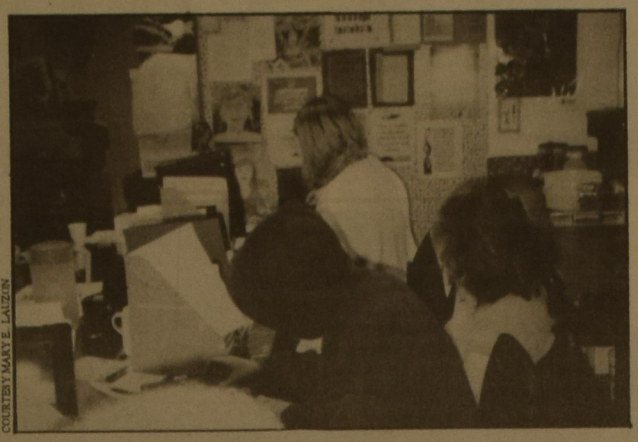
situations. They start out writing about concrete things, then they begin to work inside themselves."

Lauzon believes so strongly in the healing power of the Word that is present in simple words because she herself has experienced healing through the Word and through words.

Growing up in a strict Catholic home in the Beaches section of Toronto, Lauzon experienced physical and sexual abuse in her childhood. When she became pregnant at 15, she was sent away to have her baby and was forced to give it up for adoption. Within a few weeks of the birth of her son she was enrolled in nursing school, never having had a chance to grieve the loss.

"The other girls at the school probably thought I was strange," she recalls. "Those first few months, I just holed up in my room. I had nobody to talk to, nobody knew about what I'd just been through."

But she did have her writing, her "companion when nobody else was there." It was vitally important as an outlet for her feelings and pain.



COURTESY MARY E. LAUZON

Street kids doing poetry therapy.

Lauzon got involved in the charismatic renewal movement in the Catholic Church. She married, had a baby, and moved to Calgary in 1976. Soon she was involved in a prayer ministry at St. Luke's parish, conducting healing prayer groups in her own home. Her family grew to include six children. Raising them and helping others meant she could ignore her own pain.

Breakthroughs

But not forever. Gradually, she began to deal with issues from her past. Writing journals and poetry, caring friends, Scripture study and prayer were all part of the healing process. "My writing helped immensely; it was the way I prayed and received healing," she says. "Having a listening friend was also tremendously important – I could share my writing with her, and we could talk about what it meant. And God sent a number of different people into my life for that."

Skeptics may wonder how the simple act of writing poetry can bring about healing. To these people, she suggests that they try a simple exercise: "Just close your eyes and let yourself think of something that's true for you – about life, or death or illness or anything at all," she says. "Then begin to write it down. Write for at least 10 minutes, write whatever you think about the subject, and don't censor yourself."

This simple exercise, she says, is almost guaranteed to show writers something new that they didn't know was true about themselves. There will be a breakthrough, and a new kind of awareness. By adding imagery, metaphor, comparisons and other poetic devices to the writing, the writers create poetry.

"Anyone can do this," says Lauzon. "That's why I teach in so many places. I want to show people they can take charge of their own healing. Any time you're in therapy, this will help you move along faster, it works along with everything else."

"Poetry has an ability to make connections between different parts of ourselves," she says. "Grace and wisdom come as you write, you didn't know [the connections] until you set the words down." The connections aren't only between the conscious and the unconscious, but also often between the past, the present and the future, and between heaven and earth. When you write poetry, she says, you honor yourself, you set aside time and create space to nourish your own soul.

So when Lauzon works with the young women, many of whom are coping with horrific past life experiences, she knows that teaching them the simple act of writing poetry is a way of bringing God's healing into their lives.

She often starts the exercise by reading one of her own poems, or showing them a dramatic video clip, or listening to a popular song. The group discusses the theme of the introduction, then begins to write about it. For instance, one session began with a short clip of the movie *Twister*.

As a result of the work the group did, one woman wrote:

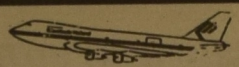
Tornadoes:

Tornadoes are a big mess,
just like our lives:
Chaos, stress, and despair.
It makes a big mess
when it's there
but when it's all over
there is sunshine.
Just little messes,
just to clean up
and need help.
Just like our lives.

Lauzon is experiencing an extra dose of happiness these days. Three years ago, she registered with Ontario's adoption registry to find out what had happened to her son given up for adoption so long ago. Her son, by God's grace, had registered at about the same time, and the two were quickly reunited over the phone. This month, she'll meet him for the first time, closing the circle of healing.

AMSTERDAM 1999

Non Stop Charter Flights
via **MARTINAIR HOLLAND**



Departs (Mon.&Thurs.)	Adult	Senior (Age 60+)	Child (age 2-15)
April 26, 29	559	539	499
May 03, 06, 10, 13	579	559	499
May 17, 20, 24, 27, 31	599	579	509
Jun 03, 07, 10, 14	639	599	529
Jun 17, 21, 24, 28	699	659	549
Jul 01, 05, 08, 12	759	699	599
Jul 15, 19, 22, 26, 29	799	739	599
Aug 02, 05, 09, 12	799	739	599
Aug 16, 19, 23, 26, 30	759	699	599
Sep 02, 06, 09, 13	699	659	549
Sep 16, 20, 23, 27, 30	639	599	529
Oct 04, 07, 11, 14, 18, 21, 25	599	579	499
Oct 28 (westbound only)			

Airport taxes $59 p.p. Insurance extra.

STAR CLASS surcharge $240 one way.

(Star Class offers comfortable spacious seating in separate cabin, gourmet meals and priority check-in).

Book Now!! We are your official Martinair agent.

"We will match all competitor's prices. Call us now!"

VERSTRAETE TRAVEL & CRUISES

14845 Yonge St., #300, Aurora, ON L4G 6H8
Phone: (416) 969-8100/Long Distance 1-800-565-9267
36 Secord Dr., St. Catharines, ON L2N 1K8,
Phone (905) 934-4414
Henny Vuyk (905) 934-0666
Visit us: www.verstraete.com

CELEBRATING GOD'S FAITHFULNESS

50th ANNIVERSARY

IRON SPRINGS CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH
1949 – MAY 22, 23, 24 – 1999

May 22, Saturday — Program at 7:00 p.m.
May 23, Sunday — Worship Services at 10:00 a.m. & 7:00 p.m.
May 24, Monday — Lunch/Activities —11:00 a.m.- 4:00 p.m.
on the Iron Springs School Grounds

A GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY BOOK will be printed and available before year end 1999.
Cost $25.00 (includes mailing)

Contact: P.O. Box 422, Picture Butte, AB, T0K 1V0
Phone / Fax: 1-403-732-4346

Heartland Forest: alternative to busy, worldly tourist attractions

... continued from page 1

advice, and visited more than 50 pastors, politicians and business people. To his surprise, he received an overwhelmingly positive response. This was the answer he was waiting for. Since then, piece by piece, Bouwman's vision has been becoming a reality.

Over the past five years, a non-denominational, international board of directors has been developing a vision and plan for Heartland Forest. Members of the board come from the Christian Reformed, Mennonite, Pentecostal and Catholic denominations, notes Bouwman. He is a member of Rehoboth Christian Reformed Church in Niagara Falls.

To help facilitate fundraising, Trinity Park Ministry Centre Inc. has been set up as a registered charity in Canada. Heartland Forest will be a non-profit centre. When seeking charitable status, "we were approved in less than four months by the government," announces Bouwman. The organization also recently got corporate status in the U.S. and has applied for charitable status there, he adds. Bouwman is pleased with the speed with which all this has happened. "The Lord has been good to me," he asserts.

A 290-acre (117 hectare) piece of land on the edge of Niagara Falls has been purchased as the site of Heartland Forest. The land features rolling meadows and mature forest and has been sitting dormant for 50 years. But before construction begins, Bouwman and his colleagues need to get permission from the City of Niagara Falls to change the zoning of the land from industrial to commercial and institutional zoning. Once this change is approved, fundraising can start, says Bouwman. "Seed money" has already been raised to help the project get off the ground. Environmental and traffic studies, among others, will need to be done once zoning is approved.

Bouwman asserts that construction will not start until 50 per cent of necessary funds are raised. But once that money is in, Trinity Park Ministry Centre estimates the resort will be built in three to five years and will create more than 2,500 person-years of employment during the construction phase. Once completed, Heartland Forest will employ about 300 people.

"Our preliminary figures suggest we can expect approximately 500,000 visitors in our first full year of operation, not including our convention and concert business, and generate $70 million annually in visitor spending," says Bouwman. "Our resort will have a very large and very positive impact on the local economy."

A healing environment

"There are no other facilities like this in North America," says Bouwman. "We expect it will generate a whole new level of tourist interest across the continent." Trinity Park Ministry Centre has hired what it calls "some of the best consultants available to ensure that Heartland Forest Niagara will be a world-class destination."

Part of the ground work done over the past five years has been to develop a mission and vision for Heartland Forest. Its mission statement is: "To communicate the life-changing message of Jesus Christ by using our talents and resources to reach and touch every person." Its vision is: "To locate in the heart of the Niagara Peninsula a Christian Ministry Centre to provide an environment of healing, reconciliation and entertainment that enhances and empowers the well-being of individuals, families and communities."

Bouwman and his colleagues have also developed a set of objectives, including these:

- to develop and maintain Christian ministry programs for individuals, families and communities to foster personal growth, unity and spirituality through the words and teachings of Christ;
- to counsel and minister to broken families and to all who suffer from physical and spiritual despondency and prejudice;
- to provide a place for family-oriented activities and educational seminars and programming based on Christian teaching.

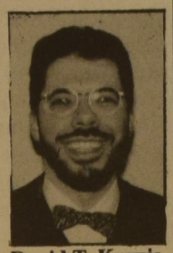
"Every part of our development is designed to glorify God and to clearly proclaim the Good News in a loving and wholesome way," explains Bouwman. He sees Heartland Forest as becoming an alternative to busy and worldly tourist attractions such as Casino Niagara. It will be "an oasis-type environment where you can escape the busyness of Niagara."

HEARTLAND FOREST NIAGARA

The Heartland Forest logo.

The politics of English spelling

Principalities & Powers



David T. Koyzis

A colleague of mine says that a language is a dialect with an army and a navy. Benedict Anderson similarly argues that the development of standard vernacular languages coincided with the invention of printing and the rise of the nation-state in the early modern period.

Furthermore, in an age of near universal literacy — at least in western countries — spelling has become increasingly standardized. In his famous 18th-century dictionary, Samuel Johnson decreed that *smoke* would supplant *smoak*, and no one bothered to disagree. In many written languages spelling has tended to correspond fairly closely to standard pronunciation. Spanish and Italian are exemplary in this respect. French is less so.

Of course, pronunciations change over time, which means that spelling tends to lag behind. The distance between them is particularly wide in English, which abounds in silent and otherwise misleading letters. This makes English especially difficult to learn as a second language. It is perhaps a cruel irony that, given these lexicographical obstacles, English should become virtually *the* international language in these closing years of the 20th century.

In some countries, governments or academies with quasi-official authority have undertaken to simplify spelling. Following the October 1917 revolution in Russia, bolshevik authorities dropped at least two letters in the cyrillic alphabet. And, as many older readers of this periodical know, the Dutch language has undergone more than one spelling simplification in the past.

English has not lacked movements to simplify spelling. In early nineteenth-century America, Noah Webster introduced a modest simplification of certain words. For example, *honour* became *honor* and *centre* became *center*. Americans have followed Webster's lead and maintained these spellings to the present.

Others sought to go further. In 1915 *A Dictionary of Simplified Spelling* prescribed, among other things, that "we wil hav lookt thru our most memorabl fotografs." Col. Robert McCormick adopted many of these spellings in his own *Chicago Tribune*, which abandoned them after his death for more standard spellings.

Then there's Canada. In line with our own perpetual identity crisis, we have vacillated between more than one combination of British and American spellings. Half a century ago, with Britain in decline and the US in the ascendancy, many of the major daily newspapers decided that their *endeavours* would henceforth be *endeavors*, though their *centres* would remain the same. Over the decades, however, Canadian nationalists steadfastly honoured the old unsimplified spellings as a mark of Canadian distinctiveness in the face of the levelling tendencies of US spelling. Academic presses have inevitably been coloured by this effort.

Indeed, eventually many of the major dailies, including *The Globe and Mail*, threw in the towel and desimplified their own spelling again. Reporters once more curried the favour of public officials in hope that their candour would lead to a good story. Tellingly, our own *Christian Courier*, perhaps anticipating the trend and wishing to maintain an antithetical stance towards the larger culture, reversed its previous practice and toned down its fervour to a mere fervor. Up to now no competent authority is uniquely capable of decreeing the acceptance of one spelling system over another.

And there's the rub. It is precisely because English is an international language that efforts to change its spelling have been so unsuccessful. Although the US is certainly the major purveyor of English-language publications, the language as a whole does not belong to the US alone. It belongs, in addition to Britain and Canada, increasingly to India, Kenya, Nigeria and Singapore. Any attempt to alter English spelling would probably necessitate a multilateral treaty, which is not likely to come any time soon.

David T. Koyzis teaches political science at Redeemer College, Ancaster, Ontario, whose students have sometimes accused him of thinking he's an English instructor.

van der Woerd
LAW OFFICE

David A. van der Woerd B.A., LL.B.
In Association With Ross & McBride

Commerce Place 1 King St.W., 10th Floor, P.O. Box 907, Hamilton, Ontario L8N 3P6
Tel. (905) 577-6205 Fax (905) 526-0732

Editorial

When Christian education fails us

I think I can safely say that my heart, which includes my pocketbook and my pen, has been in Christian day schooling from the start of my adult life. (I will not take credit for having attended Christian schools when I was young. That honor belongs to my parents.) I put myself through a Christian college, I have been a teacher in one or other Christian school for a total of 12 years, I was editor of the *Christian School Herald* for four years, my wife and I sent our kids to the Christian school from Grade 1 through high school (most of them continued on to a Christian college), I have served on an education committee and a board of directors, and at the moment I'm the chair of the local Christian school association. Dare I say as a born-again Calvinist that Christian education has been my passion?

Of course, I'm not unique in this area of passion and commitment. Thank God, there are thousands like me.

But having said that people like me are deeply committed to Christian education does not mean that we don't have negative experiences and deep disappointments to digest. Some of us smart at how this expensive gift of Christ-centred learning is actually working itself out among sinful, limited, fumbling, sometimes narrow-minded Christian folk. I *did* say "expensive" -- both in terms of financial cost and time resources. Some people are counting that cost and throwing in the towel.

Hanging on to the principle

I talked to a veteran Christian educator the other day. I asked him whether he was still enthusiastic about Christian education. His answer was that it depended on what I meant by enthusiasm. He still strongly believed in the need for Christian education, but he was somewhat bitter about the practice of it.

When he started out some 35 years ago, he was strongly motivated by the principle that we are called to bring all thoughts into captivity to Christ. Even if there were many Christian teachers in the public system, and prayer and Bible reading were still adhered to at that time, you still brought the education of your children into the realm of a faithful, covenant response. This meant that you would not surrender the responsibility of shaping a Christ-centred view of curriculum and child to the state. You simply believed that it was God's will to establish communally- or parentally-controlled schools, and you threw yourself into the venture believing that God would bless it.

This veteran educator was not really qualified to teach 35 years ago, having only a high school diploma to show as his credentials. But in the land of the committed blind (which more or less describes the early immigrant's level of education), another committed soul with one eye is king. He later went back to school and obtained a B.A. degree.

Erosion of principles

Today, 35 years later, he relies even more on the principle of Christ-centred education because so many negative things have happened to him. If it weren't for his belief in principles, he could easily have become a doubter. Faith for him has taken on the quality of Hebrews 11:1 more than he cares to — it has truly become a way of believing that which you cannot see. He would probably qualify that statement. He still sees plenty of evidence of the goodness of Christian education, especially in the eyes and voices of the children. Please, permit me to overstate my case.

He did remark, though, that, among constituencies of Christian schools, motivation by principle has eroded significantly. Many parents still send their children, but for different reasons. Some see the school as a shelter from an evil culture; others, as a place where the quality of education is often better than in its public school counterpart. Or they meekly follow the tradition, fearing a backlash from their parents or the community.

A few brave souls still have that vision that excites him so much. He compares that vision to the Olympic rings (a very unfortunate choice of symbols in this time of scandal, I might add). The rings overlap slightly and certainly intersect one another, but they do not meld into one. The colors remain distinct. This is how he would describe the principle of being *in* the culture but not *of* it – the principle of being constantly in tension that marks the Reformed view of redeeming a sin-soaked, secularized, post-modern culture. We intersect that culture, we overlap slightly, but we refuse to give up our color (make it "colors" if you prefer a more nationalistic, Kingdom of Heaven metaphor).

It really hurts

To maintain such a vision, one has to be willing at times to suspend one's judgment of how Christian education actually works. Not that such a judgment is unimportant. We should strive to get the best curriculum we can possibly develop, the best teachers we can get, the best classroom atmosphere we can nurture, the best pedagogical methods we can apply, the most efficient use of resources we can make, as honest and loving an approach to students and staff as we can muster – YES, THESE ARE THE THINGS WE WANT FOR OUR CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS! But since we are not the best people in the world to begin with, we often have to settle for less.

It hurts, though, to hear how so many students have unpleasant memories of their years spent in a Christian school. They were not affirmed. They were not treated with respect and dignity. They were cheated out of their birthright. Today, they walk around with wounds and scars. And then you think of how much it cost! Was it really worth it? Would it not have been better to be wounded in a school where you might at least find a better explanation for it? You can't blame Christ for what people who don't honor him do to you.

Our best works fail

Still, I refuse to surrender to the contemporary pretence that things must end up being the "best" for them to be worthwhile. I call it a pretence, because the state of humanity is as corrupt and flawed as it has ever been. But our society insists on killing all those who fall short of the image of success. We are so imbued with the idea that whatever we do must succeed, and often according to secular standards, that we are willing to sacrifice our very principles.

I say, let's pay more attention to "beginnings" rather than to "endings." The reason being that God is more in beginnings than he is in endings, simply because there is too much sin, incompetence and complexity in endings (only those who know that we must forgive 70 times seven will understand).

I will end my editorial by paying my respects to Syrt Wolters of Victoria, B.C., who's being buried as I write. He was a strong proponent of Christian education and truly a man who understood the value of sound principles. He was not daunted if the reality did not suggest an easy application of his convictions. He was like Isaiah, who allowed himself to be sent by God even though he was told that the people would hear but not understand (Isaiah 6:8-10).

And therein lies the key. Our trust is not in principles, but in the God who stands behind them. That's why we support Christian education — through thick and thin results. **BW**

Christian Courier

Formerly known as Calvinist Contact
Founded in 1945

An independent biweekly that seeks to:
- report on significant events in the Christian community and the world;
- express opinions infused by Scripture and rooted in a Reformed perspective;
- provide contact for the Christian community.

CHRISTIAN COURIER STAFF

Editor: Bert Witvoet **cceditor@aol.com**
Managing Editor: Marian Van Til **ccmneditor@aol.com**
Promotions&Marketing Director: Diane Klein **ccadpromo@aol.com**
Reporter, Layout: Alan Doerksen **ccjournal@aol.com**
Circulation Manager: Grace Bowman **ccsubscrip@aol.com**
Advertising, Layout: Ingrid Torn **ccadpromo@aol.com**

REGIONAL REPORTERS

Jeff Hoogendoorn, Victoria; Jacky Naayer, Abbotsford, B.C.; Gordon Legge, Calgary; Jessie Schut, Edmonton; Valerie Walker, Halifax; Robert VanderVennen, Toronto

EDITORIAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Harry der Nederlanden, Doug Roorda, Wendy Saunders, Erick Schuringa, Nelly Westerhoff.

The publication of comments, opinions or advertising does not imply agreement or endorsement by *Christian Courier* or the publisher. Please contact the managing editor if you cannot afford the subscription price but want to receive *Christian Courier*.

Christian Courier
4-261 Martindale Rd., St. Catharines, ON, L2W 1A1
Tel: (905) 682-8311; 1-800-969-4838
Fax: (905) 682-8313;
E-mail: cceditor@aol.com

Letters

Let's picket that CC office

We have been reading CC with much pleasure and benefit for many years. We much appreciate your contributors, many of whom we know personally – people such as Kuntz, Wolters, Kuyvenhoven and many others who have blessed our lives.

Did we read this correctly, or is it tongue in cheek to see what reaction you are going to get when you say that there is going to be a mass dismissal because CC is going to begin something very new?

We on the west side of the Rockies are not convinced that this is good news. For a moment I thought that perhaps all the contributors and we ministers should join the Christian Labour Association of Canada and picket unit 4 at 261 Martindale Rd. in St. Catharines.

Anyway, our hats are off to all those beautiful people who will now have to send their contributions in other directions. Perhaps that will be good too. We must let the light shine into the chaos and darkness of our times.

Jean and John Van Hemert
Vancouver, B.C.

There is spiritual longing in African religions

Yesterday I saw a copy of Jan Boer's article "An old African worldview in a new church" which appeared in the June 5, 1998, issue of *Christian Courier*. The article's point of reference was the Reformed churches in Nigeria.

Dr. Boer was a colleague of mine. I knew him to be a man with a very extensive experience and knowledge of Nigeria. Having lived in Nigeria for at least 25 years, he knows the country very well. And so his analysis of Nigerian Christianity is quite accurate. Too often, people use Christianity as a means of attempting to manipulate God.

My objection to Boer's article is his assessment of African traditional religion as *essentially* manipulative. He asserts that its purpose "is not to serve God or gods; it is to manipulate the spiritual powers to do the bidding of the people."

Everyone here in Africa would admit that there is some manipulation in African traditional religion. But to say that manipulation is the only purpose, to the exclusion of serving God, is, I suggest, totally unacceptable.

Is there no spiritual longing for God in the traditional African? Africans are often more religious than we North Americans, and their religion is not just a form of manipulation. Present-day African scholarship would reject such a statement.

It is on the basis of the traditional African yearning for God that missionaries can preach Jesus Christ as the only way to truly know God. The African religious sense is a bridge for Christian evangelism. The traditional African does stand in a sense of awe before God.

Timothy Palmer
Bukuru, Nigeria

Forgiving debt is not the solution

From 1968 to 1977 I was working in Nigeria. With the discovery of vast oil reserves in the coastal regions, along with the huge jump in oil prices, the future looked bright for this African nation. Plans for universal primary education were begun. Contracts were given for new roads, etc.

A tremendous amount of money was lost due to corrupt officials, improper maintenance, car loans and other programs which encouraged purchases of vehicles which were not necessary and were not cared for because of a lack of training on the part of both owners and mechanics.

Nigeria has tremendous debts and a burgeoning population, many of whom are unemployed and poor. To forgive the debt of the country is not to help the poor in the country.

We must use our knowledge and resources to help the poor. I only wish I knew a simple solution. I pray God will help us do what is right and merciful, and to understand the complexities of our modern world.

Lambert Hunse, in providing wells (see CC, Dec. 18, back page), gives us an example of how to help.

Tom Posthumus
London, Ont.

Promotion declined

A strange thing happened to Adrian Peetoom's article on me and Janette: "Fifty-five years of helping people in crisis." I told Adrian that my father had been a nurse in the hospital of the minimum security prison in Veenhuizen, the Netherlands. Someone in the CC office thought apparently that all nurses are female and changed the "he" into "Janette" — a change that made the story rather incoherent (though Janette was pleased with this promotion).

Rem Kooistra
Waterloo, Ont.

CC film reviewer 'jaundiced'

I was mystified and saddened by Marian Van Til's review of *The Prince of Egypt*. However, I was more saddened by her need to personalize her attack on myself and Dr. Ted Baehr. Neither of us have exaggerated our views about what we consider to be a wonderful film, despite the untrue and unworthy claims by your writer.

I think that if your reviewer wanted to criticize the film in the way she did — and she is entitled to do this — it was certainly not right to drag us into this and suggest that we were part of the hype machinery.

In fact, before this I have not read one bad review from any source on this film. Having now seen the film on three separate occasions I say again that *The Prince of Egypt* is a must-see film for all people of faith and I would ask your readers to judge for themselves rather than take the jaundiced view of one reviewer.

I'd be interested to know what other readers think about the film.

Dan Wooding
Garden Grove, Calif.

Festus was excellent; Felix was not

I appreciate your basic point that Gerald Vandezande treated politicians with respect. But you still aren't quoting the Bible correctly, even in your response to my earlier letter. You refer to Acts 25:25 and say that Paul addresses Felix as "most excellent Felix." I hate to be a nitpicker, but please note that the correct reference is 26:25 and that Paul was addressing "most excellent *Festus*."

Festus and Felix were two different men. Felix was corrupt and incompetent. Eventually Rome fired Felix and replaced him with Festus, who was a wiser, more honest governor, according to historical records.

You may be right to say we should give each politician "the benefit of a sometimes very large doubt." I simply suggest finding a different prooftext and a different political example than Felix to support that point.

David Feddes
Palos Heights, Ill.

I surrender! **Editor**

Light on the subject

After reading "Husband and wife agree to disagree on homosexuality" (Dec. 18, 1998), I asked myself, "How can I respond in wisdom to such an article?" I turned to the editorial of the same issue and found my answer. Thank you, Mr. Witvoet, for enduring sensitivity and wisdom.

Ken Vandersluis
Chatham, Ont.

Christian Courier

Member of Canadian Church Press and Evangelical Press Association.
Canada mail: Publications Mail Registration No. 0451. Postage paid at St. Catharines, Ont. Postmaster: send address changes to Christian Courier, 4-261 Martindale Rd., St. Catharines, Ont. L2W 1A1.
U.S. mail: Christian Courier (USPS 518-090). Second-class postage paid at Lewiston, NY. Postmaster: send address changes to Christian Courier, Box 110, Lewiston, NY, 14092.

Subcriptions:	**Canada**	**U.S.A.**
(effective Jan. 1, 1999)	(G.S.T. incl.)	(G.S.T. free)
one year (26 issues)	$39.54	$31.60 (US)
two years (52 issues)	$75.00	$60.00 (US)
overseas one year	$80.00 surface mail	

Advertising deadlines: display advertising: Wednesday, 8:30 a.m. (8 business days before publication date); classified advertising: Thursday, 8:30 a.m. (7 business days before publication date). See classified pages for more details. Advertising rate sheets available. (ISSN 1192-3415) Published biweekly on Mondays.

Address all correspondence to: 4-261 Martindale Rd., St. Catharines, Ont. L2W 1A1, Tel: 905-682-8311 or 1-800-969-4838, or fax: 905-682-8313, e-mail: subscriptions: ccsubscrip@aol.com, advertising: ccadpromo@aol.com

PRINTED IN CANADA

Don't ignore wife and family!

We have read the *Christian Courier* of Dec. 25. As usual, it was an interesting issue. We appreciated the articles about Gerald Vandezande and we join also in thanks to the Lord that people like Gerald live and work among us.

We were, however, somewhat taken aback by the lack of reference to wife and family. It's our experience that the men who are out day and night, doing important work, are enabled in that by a wife who often stays at home, keeping the family together and functional.

The basic elements of justice, fairness and recognition of worth are learned in the home, and we believe that that needs to be acknowledged openly and publicly. We must give official recognition to the fact that important and influential people always do their work in the context of family and community.

We are in no way "putting down" the work of Gerald. We understand that he has been instrumental in shaping history. We are saying that you are reporting only part of the story.

Behind every person "up front" there are families who in the background support that person and the cause he represents.

Harmina Linde van Arragon
Jenny van Arragon Oldengarm
Harriston, Ont.

FULL TIME YOUTH PASTOR POSITION

Active Youth ministry looking for strong leadership for Junior, Senior, and Young Adult programs. **Consistory and parents seeking direction for young people; outreach to youth in the community a possibility; a warm and growing relationship with Jesus Christ a necessity.** Musical appreciation and ability would be an asset.

If you see yourself meeting these needs in a growing rural congregation of 100 families and have academic qualifications and/or experience to make it all happen, then we would be pleased to hear from you! Send your profile to **First CRC, 3902 Heritage Drive, Taber, AB T1G 1A2.** For a church profile or if you have any questions contact us by phone **(403) 223-2331**, fax **(403) 223-0791**, or **e-mail Pastor Mike Vandyk**, mvandyk@telusplanet.net

A FARM AND AGRICULTURAL INSURANCE PROGRAM THAT'S RIGHT FOR YOU

Since 1980, Meester Insurance Brokers has been providing Southern Ontario farmers with the best policies from a choice of major insurance companies. Meester brokers understand your needs. We provide individual risk evaluation, coverage recommendations, and flexible premium plans and renewal dates. For experience, service and convenience, give us a call. We're ready to answer all of your questions with no obligation.

Farm and Agricultural Insurance
• Cash Crop • Dairy • Greenhouse Program
• Fruit Farms • Hobby Farms
• Hog Operations • Horse Farms • Poultry

Commercial / Business Insurance
• Agri-Commercial • Commercial • Fleet

Personal Insurance
• Auto • Home • Life and Disability

CALL THE SPECIALISTS

AGRI-BUSINESS MEESTER INSURANCE BROKERS LTD. SPECIALIST

Village Square Mall
Highway # 20, P.O. Box 299
Smithville, ON L0R 2A0
Tel. (905) 957-2333
1-800-465-8256
Fax. (905) 957-2599
E-mail: info@meesterinsurance.com
www.meesterinsurance.com

We cover you best

M9801

Who can equal the 'people' of music?

My Welsh blood boiled when I saw [Marian Van Til's] CD review of "A Celtic Christmas" in your Christmas issue (Dec. 4). Somehow again the Irish and Scots are included and the Welsh are excluded.

How can one write about Celts and their music and forget about the Welsh, who as a people are just habituated to music? As out British tour guide said, "When you hear 10,000 (yes, ten thousand) Welshmen singing, it is simply overwhelming."

I was brought up on that when Dad took us to the praise service on the western shores of Lake Michigan. In Welsh this is called *Gymanfa Ganu*, or Festival of Song. The *Eisteddfod* is the international festival that draws 10,000 male voices from all over the world to celebrate Welsh choral singing, the greatest you will ever hear.

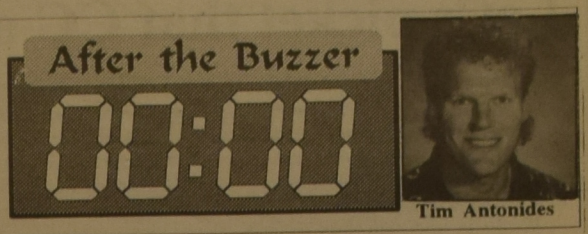
The Welsh originally called themselves *Cymru*, meaning "people." "Welsh" means "alien." You can imagine who renamed those original inhabitants of Britain.

Arthur Davies
Holland, Mich.

Reply: *I'm aware of the great Welsh musical tradition and have been myself "overwhelmed" by Welsh massed choirs. There's even a Welsh immigrant in my church choir with whom I discuss such things. Why I left out the Welsh, I have no idea.* Mea culpa.

Marian Van Til

For a quick Letter to the Editor, send e-mail to: cceditor@aol.com or fax to (905) 682-8313.



Lords of the boxing ring

Klondike Mike was the guy when I was growing up in the 70s. Every Saturday afternoon, I'd tune in to "All-star Wrestling" and watch him fling some poor guy into the ropes, pick him up off the rebound, and give him a backbreaker or full body slam. Wrestling was rough, tough and exciting. I knew the whole time that it was all staged. That didn't matter. It was fun to watch.

Wrestling has come a long way. I recently witnessed one heart-warming match where a wrestler, after having knocked out his opponent as well as his trainer, doused them with gasoline and threatened to "send them all to hell." He was stopped at the last moment by another wrestler who owed some vengeance for a betrayal months earlier.

The nature of the wrestlers has also changed a great deal since I followed the sport. Klondike Mike has been replaced by richly complex creations like Gangrel, a gentleman who has (according to WWF Magazine) a "gothic exterior with a demonic interior." He punctuated his wrestling debut by drinking an unidentified red liquid and spewing it all over himself and the crowd, much to their delight. Then there's Val Venis, an adult film star who moonlights as a wrestler (or is it the other way around?).

We can't forget Stone Cold Steve Austin, the current reigning WWF champion. His name sells more t-shirts, bumper stickers and key chains than anyone else's. His latest motto appears on shirts and hats all over the place and has really taken off in popularity, particularly with those who have a theological bent: "AUSTIN 3:16." It's not entirely clear, however, whether this is a New or Old Testament verse.

Pure garbage

This is wild stuff. It really bugs me, too. These folks have taken what was originally a fun, whimsical, entertaining pastime and turned it into a monstrously stupid, mindless, manipulatively violent waste of time. The qualifications for being a professional wrestler have always been pretty much the same: an absence of brain activity, a truckload of testosterone and a mouthful of idiotic rhetoric. The trash talk has always been around. "You can run, but you can't hide.... I will find you and when I do, you'll be in a whole world of hurts!" Blah, blah, blah!

What has made wrestling so popular? The visual electricity of it is one thing. It's orchestrated by people who know exactly how to use music, light, acrobatics and fan allegiance (or hatred) towards the wrestlers to generate an atmosphere that borders on pandemonium.

I think it's mostly about justice, though. People see and read about the lack of justice in their lives on a daily basis. Heart patients die because they were on the surgery waiting list too long. Pedophiles go free because of loopholes in the law books. Car insurance rates go up because of scam artists.

In the wrestling ring, though, justice is served swiftly and clearly. If one of the guys betrays his partner in a tag-team match, you can be sure that in a few weeks he will get his just desserts when he least expects it. The fans will remember the crime that was done and they will celebrate the retribution.

A hedonistic sense of justice has replaced a biblical one. Maybe the culture of modern wrestling is just one symptom of this. Or maybe it's just plain dumb.

Tim Antonides teaches and coaches Grade 5 at Surrey Christian School, Surrey, B.C.

Film Reviews

Shakespeare is alive and well at the movies

Marian Van Til

Shakespeare in Love

*Rated **AA**. Stars Gwyneth Paltrow, Joseph Fiennes, Geoffrey Rush, Colin Firth, Ben Affleck, Judi Dench. Written by Tom Stoppard and Marc Norman. Directed by John Madden.*

Shakespeare in Love is the latest in a fairly long series of (mostly) impressive film adaptations of the Bard's works in the last few years (Romeo and Juliet, Much Ado About Nothing, Twelfth Night, Macbeth, Henry V, to name only some). All of these productions were (are) well-worth seeing. They are helping keep Shakespeare alive in an age which has become increasingly divorced from an understanding of the language of the late 16th - early 17th century.

Shakespeare's plays capture universal human dilemmas, shed light on universal human predicaments and understand the human heart with all its graces and foibles. The stories still resonate across the centuries in a manner so profound and in a poetic language so incomparable that no one has ever been able to equal or surpass them in the English language. Granted, young speakers of modern English will need some "cluing in," but once that has happened, the rewards are rich.

The interesting twist in this film is that the plot focuses on Shakespeare himself (Fiennes), his writing of *Romeo and Juliet* early in his career (1593), and — intertwined with the plot of the play itself — a (presumably fictitious) love affair with a theatre-smitten noblewoman (Paltrow) who can, in the long run, never be his.

Broad appeal

This romantic comedy effectively does what Shakespeare himself was capable of doing in spades: appeal to both educated literature lovers and mainstream, modern movie audiences.

The cast features the amazing young American Gwenyth Paltrow as Lady Viola/Thomas Kent/Romeo/Juliet (with a British accent as flawless as the one she used in her Jane Austin debut) and a tour de force of some of the best English theatre actors-turned movie actors.

A written prologue informs us that there are two competing theatre companies in the London of 1593, whose owners/managers are vying with each other, with the public and the local government (as well as keeping an eye out for the Queen's favor), and for the services of the best playwrights: Christopher Marlowe, already an established writer, and the up-and-coming "Will" Shakespeare.

That is the setting which allows for a wealth of intrigue, comedy, poignancy and suspense, if not exactly providing a sexual morality of which Christians would approve: When Shakespeare falls in love with Viola, he is married (as he truly was, to a woman almost twice his age), and the 16th century matter-of-fact view of sex reflected here may offend some viewers. The grimy early 16th century London playhouses and taverns, too, are recreated perfectly in all their gritty glory.

The cast features the amazing young American Gwyneth Paltrow as Lady Viola/Thomas Kent/Romeo/Juliet, with a flawless British accent.

The numerous threads of this surprising story, in the end, are woven into a satisfying, seamless whole – complete with a justification for the plot and characters of Shakespeare's next play, *Twelfth Night*.

Irish comedy cops out

Marian Van Til

Waking Ned Devine

*Rated **PG**. Stars Ian Bannen, David Kelly, Fionnula Flanagan, Susan Lynch, James Nesbitt. Written and directed by Kirk Jones.*

The Irish have a peculiar sense of humor. (This is true of their descendants too, of whom my husband – whose surname is Cassidy — is one.) I would characterize this humor as the kind of dry, understated wit which particularly revels in the incongruity of strange and unusual associations. In its more literate form, this is manifest in a love for elaborate or outlandish puns.

This Irish-made film contains much of that kind of humor. The story takes place in an out-of-the-way coastal village where all 50-some souls know each other only too well. Catholics all (whether "good Catholics" is another story), they've apparently used their church's penchant for encouraging bingo to justify playing the national lottery. This virtually all of the villagers do with gusto. They all sit up and pay attention when the numbers are announced on TV and radio. And doesn't one of their numbers win, finally, and in a big way.

Generosity covers sins

It has been announced that the winning ticket was sold to one of the villagers. The trouble is, that person doesn't come forward. By a funny and slightly bizarre process of elimination, two villagers figure out who among them has the winning ticket. When they approach the home of their fortunate friend, Ned Devine, to discuss the matter, they find him dead of a heart attack, ticket still in hand.

Through a further loopy series of events, which includes the appearance of a government lotto man, one of the friends is thrust into the role of impersonating Ned Devine. The two decide they can split Ned's winnings (after all, he won't be needing them), which they assume will amount to a couple hundred thousand pounds.

The wife of one of the men (he has the decency to let her in on the plan) is appalled. This is fraud, she tells her husband and his buddy. They are chastened; but not enough to give up on their scheme.

A new wrinkle enters the fabric when the lotto man tells the friends the jackpot Ned has won is worth some six *million* pounds.

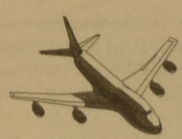
That fact makes them more generous, and they let the whole village in on the recent events in which they've been involved. If they all sign their names in agreement, when the lotto man returns the villagers will sware that "Ned" is who the lotto man thinks he is, and they'll all get equal, still hefty shares of the money.

However, one cranky villager, an invalid whom we find out really isn't one, dissents. She intends to report the fraud and collect an allotted 10 per cent of the purse for doing so. But just as she's doing her deed, she is prevented from it in a spectacular way, and everyone else lives happily ever after with their new-found wealth – though not too much per person to have it go to their heads, apparently.

There are, of course, several moral dilemmas here which the film at first seems to begin to address, but which it then more or less laughs off. It seems that the two friends are justified in their illicit and illegal behavior, and so are the villagers, because they've all decided to share the wealth.

There's one village boy who has periodic conversations with the young visiting priest who is filling in for the town's regular cleric. The young father questions the people's devotion to the lottery, but feels ineffectual to do anything about it. He also wonders what the resident priest might say upon his return, to which the strangely worldly wise boy replies something like: as long as the church coffers are full, he'll overlook it.

There are indeed some very funny moments in this film. But in the end, the film is not one that can be much appreciated by Christians who understand the seriousness of lottery-associated gambling as a social and moral problem.



SLOVAK SPA HOLIDAY

Depart April 24. Fully escorted.

Price: $2999, double (taxes/insurance extra)

Includes: ✔Airfare Toronto/Bratislava return

✔Spa accommodation ✔Complete spa treatment

✔3 meals daily ✔Leisure activities ✔Some transfers, etc.

Call us now and ask for Marta

VERSTRAETE TRAVEL & CRUISES

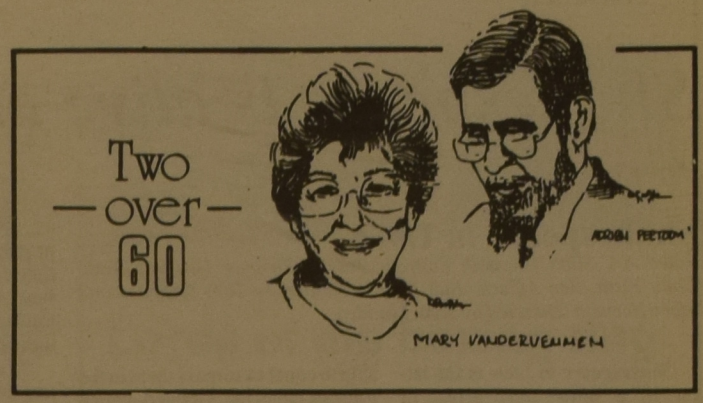
36 Secord Dr., St. Catharines, ON L2N 1K8

Tel: (905) 934-4414 Fax: (905) 934-4446

Comment

'Just a matter of taste'?

Adrian can't stand C.S. Lewis; Mary thinks Adrian's dead wrong



Dear Mary,

You undoubtedly know that Nov 29, 1998, marked the 100th anniversary of the birth of C.S. Lewis (see CC, Dec 25, 1998). I have a confession to make. I have never been able to finish even one C.S. Lewis book. Not any of the books in his Narnia series. Not any of his others. Driven by recommendations by friends, by reviews and by guilt, I have tried, one after another. But soon boredom and irritation set in, and by about page 40 I had enough and shelved the book in question.

Wait, there's more:

In the 1960s I was party to a book distribution effort among Christians, and also a frequent speaker for groups of parents and Christian school supporters. "Narnia" was just coming into its own, published in an attractive box set. I recommended (and thus "sold") hundreds of them, I dare say. Later people thanked me for my urging. My own children loved them. In early December Johanna took one of our grandsons to a staged version of *The Magician's Nephew*, to a theatre full of appreciative children and their parents (teachers, aunts, uncles, grandparents).

I'm not ashamed to own up to this strange paradox, strongly recommending an author while not liking that author myself.

And wait, there's still more:

I also don't like *The Sound of Music*. For a long time I boasted that I was the only person I knew who had never seen the film, in a movie theatre, on TV or in video form. Children in a church family who heard about it made me see the video about two years ago. I was right: I didn't like it. No more than a coat of sugar over a terrifying time in Europe's history.

But my antipathy to this film arose not out of seeing it myself, but out of others seeing it. First, I have always had an instant aversion to popular best-sellers, smash hit movies and top pop groups. Why? I've never had it analyzed. Must be my childhood, or a touch of the cynic. So when this movie was lauded by everyone, I automatically shrunk back from seeing it, saying something like this to myself: "If everyone thinks it must be good, it can't be."

And there's yet more:

In the 1960s the then younger crowd in our church was getting interested in films, and the older ones, who had internalized the notion that going to a movie theatre was sin, objected. I was involved with a young people's group in the church (and gave a speech or two to other such groups) in which I tried to help people enjoy certain films and learn from them. I even wrote a number of film reviews (in *Credo* and *Vanguard*). Certain parents let me know they were not pleased, as did a preacher (not ours).

At that time I visited one of those parents, vocal opponent of what I was trying to do. As I entered the door, I heard the TV. As I entered the living room, I noticed that the family was watching, you guessed it, *The Sound of Music*. It was, so I was told, "one of the few Christian movies on TV." Well, it wasn't then, and it isn't now. So there.

Back to C.S. Lewis. Let me hasten to say that I'm not critical of the quality of what C.S. Lewis has written, nor of the sound judgment of readers who like his stuff. Perhaps I'm to be pitied.

Then again, how often have I not been disappointed that others have not liked, as passionately as I have, certain books and films and certain jazz performers. Oh, and a soccer game between two local teams played on a meadow at the edge of some Dutch town with the wind howling down on us from water criss-crossed polders. (My brothers in the Netherlands hated me for forcing them to come with me.)

My literature teacher in Holland taught me, many decades ago, the following Latin phrase: *De gustibus non est disputandum*, i.e., "There's no accounting for taste." Indeed, there isn't.

Maybe there's still more:

I wonder how many disputes in the church, within families and between friends, have been more matters of taste than of real conflict, of truth versus lie. What if most of human conflicts are about taste? What if we could better train ourselves in hearing and seeing "taste" and "other," rather than "right" and "wrong?" Would the world be a better place?

I think I've achieved that myself with respect to C.S. Lewis, for I respect his devoted readers, without reservation (I think). As for the devotees of *The Sound of Music*, sorry, I'm not there (yet). I still think it's a rotten movie, fundamentally a corrupt Hollywood effort.

Any words of wisdom?

Love,
Adrian

Dear Adrian,

Not even the *Narnia Chronicles*? Adrian! You may be the only person in the world who can say that you aren't touched by them. You may be unique! I had to chuckle at your not finishing any of C.S. Lewis's other books either. Does that clean, clear British prose not measure up to the turgid Dutch-Germanic stuff on which you grew up?

I agree with you completely on "The Sound of Music." I once heard someone refer to it as "The Sound of Mucus." But Julie Andrews did more to change the attitudes of conservative Reformed people toward movies than anyone else, in the church or out. I guess that just shows the danger of banning movies completely (or other things, like certain books or kinds of music). We don't develop any critical judgment or ways to distinguish what's good or authentic from what isn't.

But your letter isn't really just about C.S. Lewis or "The Sound of Music," I realize. You're into that gray area called taste. I know it's too easy to move from "I like it," to "Therefore it's good; and not only good, but you should like it too." There certainly is a lot of arguing in our lives and in our churches that falls into that category.

I guess we should all take a step back from some of these debates and give each other some room. So much of our taste depends on our personalities, on the culture in which we grew up, and on the experiences and education we've had. But I also want to maintain the freedom to say loudly and clearly: "That's terrible!" or "That's something I simply have to keep — it's not negotiable!"

If there's anything that drives me up a wall it's those discussions in which after an exchange of "taste," everybody ends up smiling and saying "You like it and I don't, and that's OK, and isn't it nice that we're all different."

Well, maybe it is, but I find that just as unsatisfying as someone telling me I should like, say, "The Sound of Music." That line of thinking is the sure way to beige walls and Muzak and *Reader's Digest*.

That's part of the problem with basing our judgments simply on what we like. I think in addition to giving each other room, we owe it to ourselves and to others to expand our minds and listen to people who can help us appreciate and evaluate literature or music or art. Or worship styles, for that matter.

The Smashing Pumpkins are not a group I ever would have listened to, but Sylvia Keesmaat [theology professor at the Institute for Christian Studies in Toronto], in a worship service at a recent family conference introduced us to some of their music in a very profound way. I still don't like it, but I can't simply dismiss it any more.

Anyway, bravo to you for holding out on C.S. Lewis. I think you're dead wrong, but ... there we go again. I have to confess that I have never been to the Airport Vineyard either for probably the same reason you avoided "The Sound of Music." If everybody is raving about something I'm sure to run the other way.

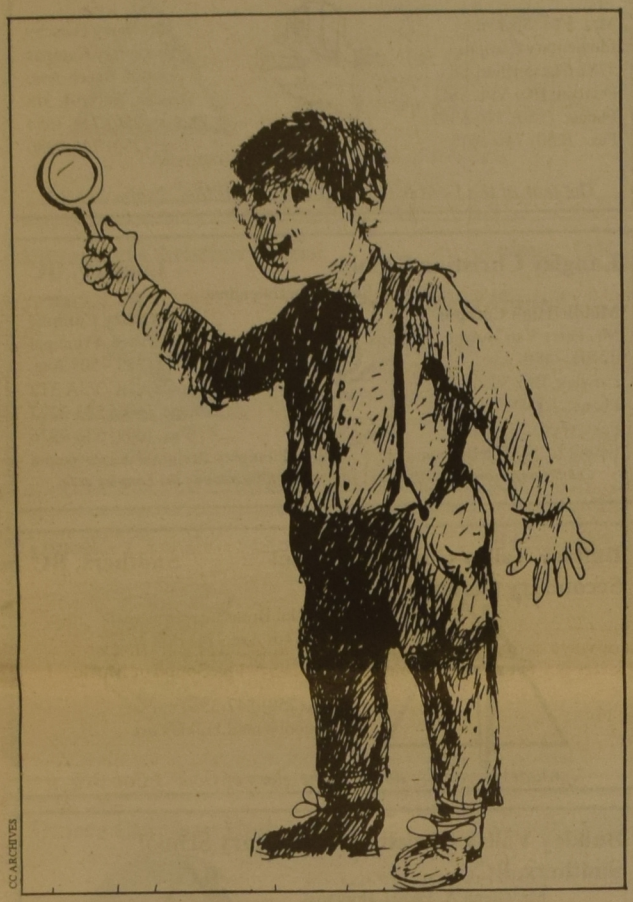
Who knows what experiences we have missed in our lifetimes!

Mary

Adrian Peetoom is a retired educational editor who lives in Waterloo, Ont. Mary Vander Vennen is a retired therapist who lives in Toronto.

Education Issue

The blueberry goofup caper



Houston slowly passed by each desk, peering into each mouth with his magnifying glass.

H. Turnip Smith

Right after school Miss Marble stood beside Houston Euston's desk. He looked up from *War and Peace*, a book that weighed five pounds, and he could tell by the streaks under her eyes she had been crying.

"Houston, I need your help. Every day someone comes back in the room at lunchtime and steals things out of my desk and writes something nasty. I need a good detective because I just don't know who's doing it."

"There are only 26 students in our class, Miss Marble. It shouldn't be hard to tell who's the thief."

"All 26 could have done it, Houston. Even, I'm sorry to say, you could have sneaked in at lunch and done it."

"Could have, but didn't, Miss Marble. That's when I study my bug collection. Were there any clues?"

"Have a look for yourself," she said. "I can't find any clues, but I do know Heidi is a bad actor, and Justin is always full of mischief. I'm mystified."

Houston Euston closed his thick book and had a look at Miss Marble's desk with his Burrows 240 magnifying class. No fingerprints. Pretty ordinary teacher's desk with some scattered pencils, old pennies and a note on yellow ruled paper. Houston picked up the note.

"Oh, don't look at that note, Houston. It's nasty," Miss Marble said.

"Sorry, Miss Marble, but I have to. It's our only clue." The note read: "Teacher don't know nothing."

"Well, this note eliminates all but six of our class, Miss Marble," Houston said. "I pretty well know who did it; I just need more proof."

"I don't understand, Houston."

"Of course not, Miss Marble, but the thief either has terrible grammar or is so smart he's pretending to be dumb. And the slope of the handwriting is very strange. That leaves Harold, Heidi, Molly, Ike, Justin and Ward."

"Well, it couldn't be Harold. He brings me apples."

"I'd be very careful of those apples," Houston said.

The next day Miss Marble was back. "Houston, someone stole $3.00 in change today and left this horrible rat in my desk." She dangled it by the tail.

"Bad mistake by the thief," Houston said. "We'll nail him, her, or it for sure now. Here's what we've got to do." He explained his plan to Miss Marble.

The next morning she had a dead frog that she asked the class to pass around and examine. Houston watched each of his classmates closely. Harold looked in the frog's mouth as carefully as a scientist, and Heidi held the frog upside down with her left hand and made a face at it. However, when Ward shuddered and refused to touch the frog, Houston said to himself, "No way could he be our rat man." Afterwards Houston told Miss Marble they were making progress.

It was Thursday when Miss Marble blew her top. A box of crayons and two erasers were missing and someone had printed: "School is for dummees" along the top of the backboard in purple chalk.

Miss Marble shouted, "This has got to stop. I want a confession."

However, no one confessed. After school Houston went to the board with his meter stick. The lettering was exactly 192 centimeters from the floor.

After the measurements, Houston said, "Okay, that eliminates Heidi, Ike and Molly."

"I don't get it." Miss Marble said.

"Look at the records, Miss Marble. None of them is tall enough to write a message that high on the board."

"They could have stood on a chair."

"Could have, but not likely to in a hurry," Houston said. "That narrows it down to either Harold or Justin."

"Harold's too sweet," Miss Marble said, "and we don't have any proof Justin did it, even though we know he's mean enough."

"Then we have to set a trap."

The next day after lunch the chalkboard said: "You'll never

"Harold's too sweet, and we don't have any proof Justin did it."

catch me." The blueberries in Miss Marble's fruit dish were gone, and a marked $5.00 bill was missing from Houston's book bag. At Miss Marble's request Houston stood up and made a speech. "The kid who did this crime is now going to do the time. Crime does not pay with Houston Euston on the case. I want all to stand by their desks and open their mouths." Houston slowly passed by each desk peering into each mouth with his magnifying glass as Miss Marble followed in amazement. When he got to Justin Small, Houston studied a long time muttered something about "bad breath," then went on past Ike, Heidi and Molly straight to Harold. He looked in Harold's mouth.

"There's your man, Miss Marble."

"What?"

"Look at the color of Harold's tongue and teeth. Blueberry stains. Now where's my five spot, Olinger?"

"In my shoe, Euston, you dork," Harold Olinger said with a beaten look.

"You were smart playing dumb, Olinger," Houston said, "but when I saw the left-handed slant of your handwriting, you were already on your way to suspension."

"Rat fink!"

"That's enough out of you, Harold Olinger," Miss Marble said, grabbing him by the collar. "You and I are going to see the principal and while we're gone, Houston, would you please explain to the class exactly how you solved the crime."

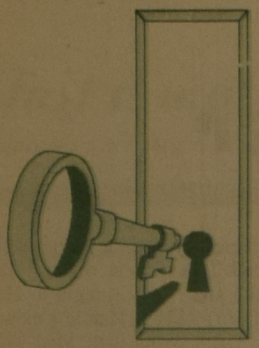
H. Turnip Smith is a writer from Kettering, Ohio.

CHRISTIAN COUNSELLING SERVICES
2300 Yonge St., Suite 902,
Toronto, ON, M4P 1E4
(416) 489-3350

- Marriage & family counselling
- Individual & group therapy
- Vocational assessments
- Seminars & workshops
- Conflict mediation to business
- Accredited AAMFT supervision for marriage and family therapists
- CAPE supervision

Amsterdam Charters
Seniors from $509
First departure April 17
Valentine – Insignia Travel
10 Kingsbridge Garden Circle, Mississauga, ON L5R 3K6
(905) 890-5333
Toll-free: 1-800-268-6144
London (519) 472-2700
St. Catharines (905) 935-9103

Education Issue



Christian Courier salutes the Christian School movement in Canada, and the people who opened doors to fruitful learning:

the vision of the founding immigrants

the sacrifices of parents and grandparents

the dedication of teachers and administrators

the willingness of classroom volunteers

the commitment of board and committee members

the never ending work of fund raisers

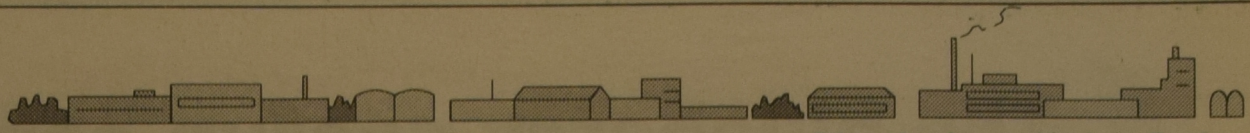
the remarkable patience of secretaries, custodians and bus drivers

the faithful support of the churches,

the amazing generosity of the community

and the enthusiasm of thousands of students.

Thank you for opening so many doors!



CANADIAN CHRISTIAN SCHOOL DIRECTORY

Education for practical applications

Calgary Christian School — Calgary, AB

Ms. A. Veeneman, Principal ECS - Gr.7
Mr. Paul Theule, Principal Gr. 8 - 12
5029 - 26th Ave. SW
Calgary, AB T3E 0R5
Phone: (403) 242-2896
Fax: (403)686-1281
CCESPR@telusplanet.net

Celebrate...educate...inspire...to become responsible, responsive citizens of Christ's Kingdom.

Duncan Christian School — Duncan, BC

Mrs. J.M. Spyksma
Elementary Campus
5781 Chesterfield St.
Duncan, BC V9L 3M1
Phone: (250) 746-5341
Fax: (250) 746-3615

Mr. Harry Fritschy
Secondary Campus
495 Beech Ave.
Duncan, BC V9L 3J8
Phone: (250) 746-3654
Fax: (250) 746-9980

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom. Psalm 111:10

Trinity Christian School — Calgary, AB

Trinity Christian School

Mr. Stan Hielema, Principal
#100, 295 Midpark Way SE
Calgary, AB T2X 2A8
Phone: (403) 254-6682
Fax: (403) 254-9843
trinity@spots.ab.com

Teaching our children to follow in Christ's footsteps

Langley Christian Schools — Langley, BC

Mr. Leo Smit, Superintendent

Middle/High Campus
Mr. Peter Van Huizen, Principal
22701 - 48th Ave.
Langley, BC V2Z 2T6
Phone: (604) 533-0839
Fax: (604) 533-0842
Email: LCSMH@Beacom.com

Elementary Campus
Mr. Henry Vanderveen, Principal
21789 - 50th Ave.
Langley, BC V3A 3T2
Phone: (604) 533-2222
Fax: (604) 533-7276
Email: langleychrelem@uniserve.com

Celebrating more than 40 years of Christian Education in the Langley area.

Edmonton Christian School

For 50 years Edmonton Christian School has offered outstanding Christian education infused with love. Give the children in your life a place to spread their wings.

3 campuses to serve you(Kindergarten to grade 12)
Administration Office, 13470 Fort Road, Edmonton, Alberta, (780) 476-6281

Bulkley Valley Christian School — Smithers, BC
Secondary Campus

Mr. John Bronsema, Principal
3575 14th Ave., PO Box 3635
Smithers, BC V0J 2N0
Phone: (250) 847-4238
Fax: (250) 847-3564
bvschool@mail.bulkley.net

"...whatever you do, do all to the glory of God." I Cor. 31b

Central Alberta Christian High — Lacombe, AB

Mr. Jack Vanden Pol, Principal
22 Eagle Road
Lacombe, AB T4L 1G7
Phone: (403) 782-4535
Fax: (403) 782-5425
cach@telusplanet.net

Do not let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity. 1 Timothy 4:12

Bulkley Valley Christian Elementary School — Smithers, BC

Mr. Glenn A. Ewald, Principal
4035 Walnut Dr., Box 2117
Smithers, BC V0J 2N0
Phone: (250) 847-9833
Fax: (250) 847-0184
bvcselem@mail.bulkley.net

"...whatever you do, do all to the glory of God." I Cor. 10:31b

Immanuel Christian Elem. School — Lethbridge, AB

Mr. Henry Ronda, Principal
2010 5 Avenue N.
Lethbridge, AB T1H 0N5
Phone: (403) 317-7860
Fax: (403) 317-7862
ices@telusplanet.net

The Mission of ICES is to provide a Christian environment in which God calls all His children to develop and use their gifts for joyful service in His Kingdom.

Centennial Christian School — Terrace, BC

Mr. Frank Voogd, Principal
3608 Sparks St.
Terrace, BC V8G 2V6
Phone: (250) 635-6173
Fax: (250) 635-9385

"Train up a child in the way he should go; and when he is old, he will not depart from it." Proverbs 22:6

Red Deer Christian School — Red Deer, AB

Mr. Bob Barthel, Principal
5210 61st St.
Red Deer, AB T4N 6N8
Phone: (403) 346-5795
Fax: (403) 347-3003
rdcs@telusplanet.net

Education for a Lifetime

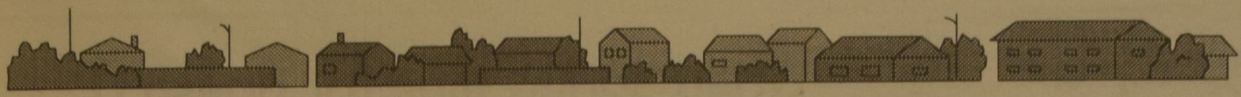
Pacific Christian School — Victoria, BC

Mr. Bill Helmus, Principal
671 Agnes St.
Victoria, BC V8Z 2E6
Phone: (250) 479-9365
Fax: (250) 479-3685
pcs01@islandnet.com

Mr. John Messelink, Principal
654 Agnes Street
Victoria, BC V8Z 2E6
Phone: (250) 479-4532
Fax: (250) 479-3511
pcshs@islandnet.com

Pacific Christian School... nurtures students in Christ-like living, critical thinking, and joyful service, to become effective members of the Christian community in God's world.

Education Issue



Education for personal growth

CANADIAN CHRISTIAN SCHOOL DIRECTORY

Athens Christian School — **Athens, ON**

Mrs. Jannie Feenstra, Principal
Box 264, 21 Wiltse St.
Athens, ON K0E 1B0
Phone: (613) 924-9500
Fax: (613) 924-1148

"Equipping students for a life of service in a world that belongs to God."

John Knox Christian School — **Brampton, ON**

Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet

Ms. Hilda Roukema, Principal
82 McLaughlin Rd. S.
Brampton, ON L6Y 2C7
Phone: (905) 451-3236
Fax: (905) 451-3448
hroukema@JKCS.torcon.com

Excellence in learning

Immanuel Christian School — **Aylmer, ON**

Ms. Marianne Vangoor, Principal
75 Caverly Road
Aylmer, ON N5H 2P6
Phone: (519) 773-8476
Fax: (519) 773-8315
immanuel@kanservu.ca

"Instruction for Christian Service"

Brantford Christian School — **Brantford, ON**

Mr. Chris Vander Veen, Principal
7 Calvin St.
Brantford, ON N3S 3E4
Phone: (519) 752-0433
Fax: (519) 752-0433
bcs@bfree.on.ca

Standing in awe of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom

Timothy Christian School — **Barrie, ON**

Ms. Jane Tjeerdsma, Principal
49 Ferris Lane
Barrie, ON L4M 2Y1
Phone: (705) 726-6621
Fax: (705) 726-8571
tcs@barint.on.ca

"Excellence in education, focused upon the majesty of God."

Woodland Christian School — **Breslau, ON**

Mr. Gary Van Arragon, Principal
★ Christ-centred education
★ High academic standards, flexible to each student's needs
★ fully accredited
★ high level of parental involvement

Add to your faith virtue, and to virtue knowledge.

RR 1, Breslau
Ontario N0B 1M0
Phone: (519) 648-2114
Fax: (519) 648-3402

Quinte Christian High School — **Belleville, ON**

Mr. Leo Van Arragon, Principal
289 Pinnacle St.
Belleville, ON K8N 5B3
Phone: (613) 968-7870
Fax: (613) 968-7970

"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge." Prov. 1:7

Cambridge Christian School — **Cambridge, ON**

Mr. Andy Vander Ploeg, Principal
229 Myers Rd.
Cambridge, ON N1R 7H3
Phone: (519) 623-2261
Fax: (519) 623-4042
neilbenj@enoreo.on.ca

Growing in Wisdom and Knowledge

Knox Christian School — **Bowmanville, ON**

"Living for Jesus"

George Petrusma
Principal
410 Scugog St.
Bowmanville, ON
L1C 3K2
Phone: (905) 623-5871
Fax: (905) 623-8877

Chatham Christian Schools — **Chatham, ON**

..... BUILDING IN FAITH - - FOR HIM

Excellent, Christ-centred education since 1957.
Moving into a new Kg-12 facility in September.
For information, contact the school at
72 Tissiman Ave., Chatham, ON N7M 4G5
Phone: (519) 352-4980

Durham Christian High School — **Bowmanville, ON**

Mr. Fred Spoelstra, Principal
RR 1, 340 Scugog Street
Bowmanville, ON L1C 3K2
Phone: (905) 623-5940
Fax: (905) 623-6258
DCHS@ican.net

Calvin Christian School — **Drayton, ON**

Mr. Willy Katerberg, Principal

Box 141, 35 High St.
Drayton, ON N0G 1P0
Phone: (519) 638-2935
Fax: (519) 638-2935
ccs@freespace.net

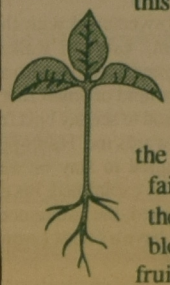
The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge.

Lord of all that is beautiful and wise!

When we look at the lists of Christian schools in Canada, we are awed by your blessing.

We can imagine the thousands in our communities whose lives have been touched in a unique way -- among them ourselves, our parents and grandparents, our children and grandchildren.

You alone know how much has been suffered and sacrificed to make this possible.



But in our Christian schools we see that the seeds of faith planted in the past have blossomed into fruitful learning for generations of students.

Bless those who learn, Lord. Help them to translate their learning into thankful, joyful lives.

Bless those who provide such a beautiful learning opportunity for our children. Help them to thrive in the joy of their calling.

Bless those who are willing to give up so much else in life to give their children and grandchildren a legacy without comparison.

Bless the work of Christian education. Encourage those who struggle with tight resources, overwhelming demands, conflict and exhaustion. Renew them with the sense that their work is of inestimable value in your kingdom, that you are mindful of their struggle, and that you are a God of healing and strength. Amen.

When students flip a column around

One of our former columnists, Jen VanderBeek, wrote an item last year entitled "When Spring Flips." Henk Nienhuis, an English teacher at Pacific Christian Secondary School often uses articles from various sources to encourage his students in their writing, "and CC is always one of my favorites," he writes. This time he made use of Jen VanderBeek's column. His students listened to a few givens from Jen's article, which they then worked into their own creative pieces, entitled "When Spring Flips." "After each student had finished his or her piece, I shared the original with them," says Nienhuis.

When spring flips

Fiona Christensen

The air was sweetened with the fresh scent of spring. A cool breeze ruffled my hair as I walked home from school. I was in Grade 2, young and curious, with a love for surprises. Behind me I heard the faint sound of small feet running, and then, "Mike!"

I turned around to see my best friend, Jeremy, panting and gasping as he ran towards me. He stopped in front of me, exhausted. A silly grin struggled to stay on his face as he breathed heavily. "Guess what!" he exclaimed, his eyes bright with mischief.

"What?" I asked, the excitement growing within me.

"Come on, I have a secret I want to show you!" he replied as he ran off laughing.

A secret life

I followed Jeremy to his backyard and up to our tree fort. It was a rugged old shack, but to us it was everything. The "No girlz alowed" sign hung crooked on the outside wall. There were two windows on opposite sides and a door at the front. Along the back wall there were some shelves which held out treasures.

CHARLES G. SUMMERS JR., DPI

Scrambling through the small doorway, I caught a glimpse of a small cardboard box, its lid ripped off completely. Jeremy was squatting beside it, peering at whatever was inside. My curiosity took over and I knelt beside the box to take a look. A tiny bird sat huddled in the corner, trembling with fright.

"His wing's hurt," Jeremy whispered. "He can't fly."

"What are you going to do?" I whispered back, a little worried.

"I haven't showed him to my mom yet," Jeremy confided, "but I think I will so she can make him all better, just like she makes me all better when I'm sick."

New hope

I went over to Jeremy's house after school every day for the next few days to see Spring. That's what we named the bird. With the help of Jeremy's mom, he got stronger, but he still didn't fly away. A few days later, Jeremy came running over to my house. He burst through the kitchen door as I sat eating my cereal, overwhelmed with excitement. "Spring flipped!" he shouted. "He flew away!"

Fiona Christensen has been a student at Pacific Christian School since Kindergarten. She wrote this article for a Grade 10 class assignment. She is in Grade 11 this year.

When spring flips (or doesn't)

(Journal of Jeremy Walsh)

Nathan Wren

September 2

Do you want to know something, Journal? I hate girls. I mean, I *really* hate them. Just yesterday I went to school for my first day of Grade 2. I was scared. My brother said that they teach you scary stuff in Grade 2. He said that I might get *homework*. Can you believe it? I wouldn't ever want to do school at home! I thought he was joking, but he wasn't. You are my first homework. My teacher said that I had to write in you every day for the whole year.

Anyway, I said I hate girls, and here's why. We were supposed to be making pictures of things we did in the summer, and I have a great one. It was when we went to the zoo and I wrestled with an alligator. I finished it and gave it to the teacher. She asked me if I really wrestled an alligator, and said that I did (I really didn't, but I didn't want to make another picture). A girl beside me laughed at me and said I was too small to wrestle an alligator. I said she should shut up. The teacher heard and sent me to the corner. I hate girls.

September 3

I found out the girl's name today. Her name is Kaylie and she's a pain. We were doing time tables and I made a mistake on one. She started laughing at me. When the teacher asked why she was laughing, she said that I told her a funny joke. The teacher said it was good that we were being nice to each other. When the teacher left, I said I would never be nice to a dumb girl. She started to cry and I got sent to the corner again. I went home and asked my brother why there are girls. He said it was so there could be babies. I asked him why we need girls for babies, and he said to go away because I was too little to understand. I asked my dad, too, but he just coughed and said he'd tell me when I was older. Why don't little boys get to know anything?

September 4

My friend told me about babies today. I think he was lying because I've never seen my mommy and daddy do anything like he said. Kaylie wasn't so dumb today. I think she might be nice if she wasn't a girl. We were playing tag at lunch and I was it. I chased after Kaylie and the teacher said that spring must be in the air. I don't know what she means. It's only September. Today the teacher asked us to write what we thought was the secret of life. I was going to write "candy," but I thought that wasn't the answer. I started to write a note to Kaylie to ask her to come to my birthday party, but as soon as I wrote "Kaylie," the teacher took our papers away. She went to her desk and began to read them to herself. I think she read mine because she started to laugh so hard she cried. I didn't want Kaylie to be the secret of life! Today was a bad day.

KEN REITMAN

"Anyway, I said I hate girls, and here's why...."

September 5

Kaylie kissed me at lunch! I was mad but a little happy too. She is kind of pretty, but I would never like her; everyone knows that girls have germs.

September 6

It was Saturday today and my daddy took me fishing. He said we were going to talk man to man about some things. He started to cough the same way he did when I asked him about babies. I told him that I knew about babies already, then I told him what my friend told me. He said I was close enough, and he stopped coughing all the time. I guess my friend was right. I asked him what "spring in the air" meant. He said that in springtime people fall in love more easily. I thought about Kaylie when he said that; I think I'll ask her to marry me soon. I don't know if I should wait for spring or not. I asked my daddy if you could fall in love when it wasn't spring. He said that sometimes spring flips to another time for some people, but he said that it is easier to find flowers in spring.

September 7

I think I will ask Kaylie to marry me on Monday. I found some flowers by the toolshed; I just hope that spring decides to flip for me. I hope that she says Yes. I'll let you know how it goes tomorrow, Journal.

Stupid September 8

I hate girls! I hope I never see one again, especially Kaylie. Spring didn't flip, and I hope it never does. I HATE GIRLS.

September 1

I started Grade 3 today. There is a girl named Sarah who sits beside me. I think I'll wait for spring this year.

Nathan Wren is an all-round student who is particularly interested in the arts. He writes poetry, and likes acting. He played the lead part in last year's stage production of "The Diviners."

Education Issue

Church News

Christian Reformed Church

Dissolution of Congregation
It is with sadness, but also with gratitude for what the Lord has done through us and for us these past 12 years, that the Council and the Congregation of New Life inform you that the congregation will dissolve. Public worship services, held in the auditorium of the Village Retirement Centre, Pickering, will cease Feb.28, 1999. Consistory notifies the churches that **evangelist John Veenstra,** (declared to be a Candidate for the ministry of the Word and Sacraments in the CRC Sept.1998 by Classis Toronto), is **available for a call on or after March 1, 1999.**
Cell phone: (416) 618-5287,
e-mail: jveenstra@trebnet.com
On behalf of Consistory,
John Veenstra.

Call extended:
The Christian Reformed Church of Kincardine, Ont. has extended a call to candidate **John Douma.**

Service time change:
Maranatha CRC, York, Ont., has changed its evening services from 7:30 to 6:00 p.m.

DORDT COLLEGE

open
your mind
to God's
world

At Dordt College, we believe that the world and everything in it belongs to God. A Dordt education is designed to help students distinguish sharply, think critically, and judge wisely—all from a biblical perspective. Dordt offers two-year associate's degrees in six fields, more than 40 majors leading to a B.A., and a master's degree in elementary education. In every program, students are guided to understand God's world and will, then challenged to put their knowledge to work in Christ's service. If you're ready for a mind-opening experience, contact Dordt College today.

Dordt College, Sioux Center, IA 51250 www.dordt.edu 1-800-343-6738

Calvin College: Summer Learning Opportunities

Graduate Institutes and Workshops
(616) 957-6015 for more information. Each course carries 2 semester hours of credit.

• June 14-18 •
MATH 601—Data Analysis, Stats, and Probability for Secondary School, G. Talsma

• June 17-19 •
PE 601—Facilitating Adventure Education, J. Ashby, D. De Graaf,

• June 21-25 •
EDUC 603—Multimedia for Teachers, R. Sjoerdsma, R. Nieuwsma, T. Kamps
ENGL 602— Children's and YA Novels, D. Hettinga, G. Schmidt
IDIS 602—Religion American Style, P. Kemeny, D. Koopman
MATH 602—Problem Solving Mathematics for Grades 1-6, J. Koop

• June 28-July 2 •
EDUC 604—World-Wide-Web for Teachers, R. Sjoerdsma, R. Nieuwsma, T. Kamps
EDUC 606—Attention Deficit and Hyperactivity Disorder, M. Montague
ENGL 601—Using Film in Middle and High School, R. Anker
IDIS 603—The Best and the Worst in Your Science Class, D. Triezenberg

• July 6-9 •
EDUC 607— Educational Care and Inclusive Schooling, R. Berends, D. Bouman, T. Hoeksema, P. Steginк

• July 12-16 •
EDUC 601— Middle Level Perspectives, K. Bergwerff, G. Stronks, J. Vos
EDUC 602—Reading Problems, A. Post
EDUC 605— Instruction Technology, R. Sjoerdsma, R. Nieuwsma, T. Kamps
EDUC 609—The Wonder Tale (Storytelling), J. Hiemstra
MUSC 601—Interactive Music in the Elementary School Classroom, D. Topp

• July 19-23 •
CAS 601— Classroom Drama, L. Krahenbuhl
EDUC 608—Getting Ready to Read, D. Tangel
IDIS 601—Foreign Language Assessment, P. Dykstra-Pruim

Calvin Summer School
Session 1: May 25 - June 15 or 22
Session 2: June 24 - July 15 or 22
Session 3: July 26 - August 13

Day and evening courses for under-graduate and graduate credit. Open to both college students and qualified high school students. For a listing of courses being offered, costs, and an application form, request a summer school brochure by calling 616-957-6555.

Summerfest '99
July 12-17
Call 616-957-6142
Enjoy a family learning vacation.
Theme: More Than Mere Appearance

"Beneath the Surface: Christians and Emotions" Claudia Beversluis, Psychology
"Cultural Faces: Images of Identity and Power" Charles Young, Art and Architectural History

Summerfest '99 West
July 6-10, 1999
Estes Park, CO YMCA of the Rockies

"Renewing our Hearts" Dale Cooper, College Chaplain
"Refreshing our Bodies" Nancy Meyer, Physical Education and Recreation

Art Camp
July 12-16
Anne Struyk, "People, Places, and the Things We Do for Fun" for students who have completed grades 1-3.
Bruce Joldersma, "Painting and Drawing Like the Masters" for students who have completed grades 4-6
Jennifer Steensma, "Photography, the Creative Lens," for students who have completed grades 7-12
Art camp gives students an opportunity to use the college art facilities and to work with a leading art instructor in ways not possible in regular school programs. Will be held the same days as Summerfest. For more information call: 616-957-6326

Foreign Language Camp
July 12-16
Open to students ages 7-10. Languages taught will be Dutch, French, Japanese, and Spanish. Call or write Prof. E. Greenway, Department of Spanish, for more information, (616) 957-6354.

Knollcrest Music Camp
August 2-6, Junior Camp
(students entering grades 7 and 8)
August 9-13, Senior Camp
(students entering grades 9 through 12)
A summer day camp which meets from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. in the Fine Arts Center. Call 616-957-7145 for a brochure, or write to the Music Department for further information.

Chemistry Camp
June 21-25, June 28-July 2, July 13-17
Designed to provide exciting hands-on activities and experiments for students in grades 5-7. Call 616-957-6493 for further information.

Summer Sports Program
Instructional camps for students of all ages are offered throughout the summer. Activities include soccer, tennis, baseball, basic movement, softball, basketball, volleyball, and swimming. Write or call the Physical Education Department for further information, (616) 957-6176.

CALVIN
College
www.calvin.edu

The literature of anachronism

A survey of books studied at Christian high schools in Ontario

Bill Van Dyk

In September 1997, I asked Christian high school teachers across Ontario if they would send me a list of the novels and short story collections they used in their courses. More than 80 per cent of the schools responded.

If you scan the list of these novels, you will notice a striking characteristic. Almost all of the books were written before 1970. In fact, only one book on the list, *My Name Is Asher Lev*, by Chaim Potok, was written after that year (but in terms of style and content, it could well have been written in the 1950s).

Why are our Christian schools frozen in time? Is it because nobody has written any important books since 1960?

Almost all of the other books — *The Pearl*, *To Kill a Mockingbird*, *Lord of the Flies*, *More Joy in Heaven*, etc., were written in the 1950s or earlier.

Now Canada is a very fortunate country in terms of literary achievement. In fact, Canada must have more first-rate writers per capita than any other country in the English-speaking world.

At present, Canada boasts Alice Munro, Carol Shields, Margaret Atwood, Mavis Gallant, Matt Cohen, Rohinton Mistry, Michael Ondaatje, Douglas Coupland, and many others of high calibre. But with a few exceptions, none of these authors are currently represented on any of the lists I received. Nor are any of the leading current American authors, such as Thomas Pynchon, William Gibson, Toni Morrison, Anne Tyler, Joyce Carol Oates or Dom Delillo.

The implications

This means that the literature we teach to our students does not include any serious reflection on the following important social-historical developments:

- the end of the cold war and the collapse of Communism;
- feminism;
- the personal computer, and the startling rise of the Internet;
- AIDS;
- neo-conservativism;
- legalized abortion and widely available contraceptives;
- the migration of women to the workplace in massive numbers;
- the huge increase in the divorce rate;
- the drug problem;
- DNA research, the human genome project;
- the decay and loss of the industrial heartland, and the rise of Silicone Valley.

When we ask ourselves if we are doing an adequate job of preparing our children to have a positive impact on our society, perhaps the first question we need to ask is: Are we preparing them to even understand our society? *To Kill a Mockingbird* may be a lovely and lyrical book, but does its depiction of racism correspond to the modern realities of the post-civil rights era? Can you picture a character like Mohammed Ali or Jesse Jackson in Harper Lee's classic?

What's behind it?

Why are our Christian schools frozen in time? Is it because nobody has written any important books since 1960? Is it because most of the books written since then are not as good? Is it because it is natural to allow the passage of time to filter the true gems from the merely trendy? Or is it because most of these books were current when most of today's teachers were still in college and our teachers are too busy to create new units based on new books?

I think none of these reasons make sense. Anyone could make up a quick list of important books written in the last few years, led, perhaps, by William Gibson's *Neuromancer* and Douglas Coupland's *Generation X*. Margaret Atwood's books (like her or not) make important observations about the feminist consciousness. Alice Munro deals eloquently with the hazards of modernity in terms of sexual relationships and personal identity. Thomas Pynchon has some profound things to say about the death of 1960's idealism. And then there are Milan Kundera, Ismail Kadare and Michael Ondaatje.

BERT WITVOET

When we ask ourselves if we are doing an adequate job of preparing our children to have a positive impact on our society, perhaps the first question we need to ask is: Are we preparing them to even understand our society?

No shortage of good writers

There is no shortage of important, talented writers at work today. Why are these authors not being heard in our schools? And I don't mean: why don't we expose our students to *more* of their books. I mean, why don't we expose our students to *any* of their books?

Is the real reason the most obvious one? Is it simply the swearing? Are we really in the position of asserting, against the tide of literary criticism of the past 30 years, that novels should not accurately report dialogue? Or, failing that, that novels and short stories should confine themselves to more ethereal subjects? Without a doubt, most of our students hear all the colorful language imaginable at the movie theatre or on videos at home. Why not in books?

Or is it something more substantial? Many Christians believe that our North American culture used to be "Christian" and now it is not. The literature of the pre-modern era was accurate enough, but people behaved better back then. There was no need to dwell on infidelity, lust or obscenity, because such things barely existed. Where such things were described, as in Sinclair Lewis' *Elmer Gantry*, the perpetrators were suitably punished with disgrace, misery and death.

But when Alice Munro writes about a woman who abandons her husband and child to run off with an attractive play director, she doesn't bother to destroy this character with a crushing blow of fate or crippling emotional problems. The woman simply learns from the experience and moves on with her life. Or perhaps she learns that she doesn't learn, that she makes the mistake again and again. She wonders if this is a defect in her personality, or merely the reality of love — that an impulse can overrule reason and sense, because we secretly wish it to.

In other words, Alice Munro gives modern readers an accurate, insightful reflection of our times. We may not like what we see in this reflection, but it is certainly far closer to the truth about the ambivalence with which many modern women view their lives.

Contemporary mindset

Isn't this something we want to know and understand? How can we even begin to address the moral issues of our day if we do not begin to understand the mindset of a rather typical, educated North American woman? Is this what we are hiding from our students?

Some Christian school teachers will tell you (off the record) that they, personally, do not believe that swearing and explicit language are adequate reasons to *not* read important current works of fiction. But they will tell you that the parents of their students would "raise hell" if you assigned one of these novels to a classroom of 16-year-olds. It's hard enough to get a book written by Christians such as Madeleine L'Engle or Annie Dillard past parents nowadays, with all the hysteria about witches and New Age spiritualism and the like. But a book like Atwood's *Cat's Eye* or Coupland's *Shampoo Planet*? You might as well suggest that Canada start a space program.

Most of the leadership of our Christian school system continues to insist on the reformational foundation of Christian education: that the goal of such education is to engage the world, not retreat from it.

I can't see how that is possible when we dare not even read a novel written by someone who was born after John F. Kennedy was shot and John Glenn orbited the planet for the first time.

How are we to engage in discussion with feminists when we're still discussing Hester Prynne? How are we to address the information super-highway when we're still analyzing the symbolism of Piggy's glasses? How are we to understand the importance of the Human Genome Project while limiting ourselves to the archaic science of Dr. Frankenstein?

Isolationism lurks

I am not suggesting that we should avoid the "classics." The history of literature is important. But we are seriously mistaken if we believe that *Cry, the Beloved Country* or *To Kill a Mockingbird* really connect us with any kind of current dialogue about race relations or apartheid, or that *Frankenstein* illuminates the current debate on genetic engineering or euthanasia. These novels speak with a different vocabulary, with an entirely different set of assumptions about human nature, science and politics.

It is most ironic, in this context, that *Peace Shall Destroy Many* is on some lists: it was taught — approvingly — at Beacon Christian High in St. Catharines in the 1970s. Aside from the wretched, turgid prose, it's only virtue is that it criticized the refusal of the Mennonite community to engage the modern world! If Wiebe was right, then we are wrong.

We are in danger of withdrawing completely from the modern literary world. And students who aspire to be writers are being provided with archaic models of diction and structure, and an effete taste in subject matter that will not address the vital intellectual ferment of our age.

I don't wish to sound heartless, but the truth is that the fiction published in Christian periodicals is the most cliché-ridden, uninteresting, unimaginative and irrelevant writing to be found anywhere. Its cardinal sin is that it offends no one except those who think that literature should stimulate, not anesthetize.

The one cliché that applies to our approach to modern literature is the proverbial salt that has lost its ability to give flavor.

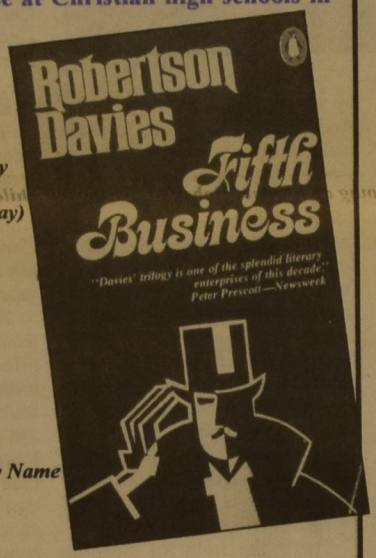
Can this situation be remedied? Yes, if school boards and teachers have the courage and determination to implement an enlightened book selection policy. And if a majority of parents agree that it is important for our children to be acquainted with the modern world.

I have seen some of these debates over the years and I am not optimistic. It is too easy for a small number of determined parents to pressure a school into excluding certain books. The majority often gives in to this pressure in order to keep the peace and maintain financial stability. I hope we are capable of moving beyond this paralysis.

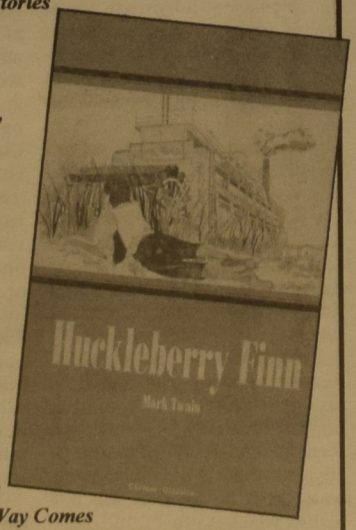
Bill Van Dyk is a computer consultant and avid reader. He lives in Kitchener, Ont.

The current diet

Books reported in use at Christian high schools in Ontario:


Robertson Davies
Fifth Business
"Davies' trilogy is one of the splendid literary enterprises of this decade."
Peter Prescott—Newsweek

- *Arms and The Man*
- *Bird in the House*
- *Bread and Wine*
- *Chosen Chrysalids*
- *Cry, the Beloved Country*
- *Cue for Treason*
- *Death of a Salesman (play)*
- *Doll's House (play)*
- *Each Man's Son*
- *Fahrenheit 451*
- *Fifth Business*
- *Frankenstein*
- *The Great Divorce*
- *The Great Gatsby*
- *Heart of Darkness*
- *Hedda Gabler*
- *Huckleberry Finn*
- *I heard the Owl Call My Name*
- *Jacob Have I Loved*
- *Last Battle*
- *Light in the Forest*
- *Lord of the Flies*
- *The Mayor of Casterbridge*
- *Modern Canadian Short Stories*
- *More Joy in Heaven*
- *My Name is Asher Lev*
- *The Outsider*
- *Outsiders*
- *Peace Shall Destroy Many*
- *The Pearl*
- *Pigman*
- *Pitcher's Hand*
- *The Power and the Glory*
- *Pygmalion (play)*
- *Saint Joan (play)*
- *The Scarlet Letter*
- *A Separate Peace*
- *Short Story Masterpieces*
- *Stone Angel*
- *The Study of Man*
- *A Tale of Two Cities*
- *Tigers in the Snow*
- *Time of Your Life*
- *To Kill A Mockingbird*
- *Who Has Seen the Wind?*
- *Something Wicked This Way Comes*



COURTESY BILL VAN DYK

Bill Van Dyk

Check these out!

Here's a list of some contemporary books suitable for high school (Canadian novels are asterisked):

- *The Shipping News*
- *Accordian Crimes*
- *Einstein's Dreams*
- *Paddy Clarke Ha Ha Ha*
- **Where She Has Gone*
- **Lives of the Saints*
- **Cat's Eye*
- **Wilderness Tips*
- **Edible Woman*
- **Bluebeard's Egg*
- **The Robber Bride*
- **Alias Grace*
- *The Mezzanine*
- **The Elizabeth Stories*
- **The Fencepost Chronicles*
- *Dancers at Night*
- **Lives of Girls and Women*
- *A Prayer for Owen Meany*
- *Cider House Rules*
- **The Sirens of Titan*
- *The Rapture of Canaan*
- **Fall on Your Knees*
- *The Book of Ruth*
- *Song of Solomon*
- *Paradise*
- **Larry's Party*
- **Stone Diaries*
- **Touch the Dragon*
- *Mists of Avalon*
- *Snow Falling on Cedars*
- *She's Come Undone*
- **The Underpainter*
- **Whirlpool*
- **Away*
- *The Other*
- *The Joy Luck Club*
- **Piano Man's Daughter*
- *Neuromancer*
- **Shampoo Planet*
- **Generation X*
- *Last Seen*
- **Girlfriend in a Coma*
- **Cure for Death by Lightning*
- **The Englishman's Boy*
- *Ghost Road*
- *Underworld*
- **Home Truths*

Education Issue

Caught by the Catcher then ... and years later

Bert Witvoet

When Bill Van Dyk sent me his article about the kind of literature Christian high schools select for study (see previous page), and how contemporary novels are studiously (?) avoided, my thoughts involuntarily went back 32 years ago to when I got into difficulties as a teacher for having selected a then contemporary novel called *The Catcher In the Rye*. I was not the only Christian teacher in North America who got shot down for teaching this novel, but at the time it felt as if I was.

J.D. Salinger had written the book 16 years earlier at the time I selected it, but the book had gone through no fewer than 40 printings. It accurately portrayed teenage language and teenage alienation in an era we associate with hippies.

The protagonist and the author think nothing of throwing the name of God and Jesus around. Had it not bothered me 30 years ago? I wondered.

Curiously enough, a few weeks before I got Bill Van Dyk's article, I had taken *The Catcher In the Rye* from my bookshelf (the very copy I had used 32 years ago, with my teacher's notes in the margins) and I had decided to reread it. I had not read it since 1967. Why not? Perhaps I wanted to avoid the unpleasant memories I associate with that period. Also, the book seemed somewhat alien to me. The more removed I became from it, the less convinced I was that I had made a wise choice back then.

I don't know what made me reread it now. Maybe it's because I am coming to the end of my formal working life, and this book represents unfinished business. Maybe I have lost my fear of this episode.

Now that Bill Van Dyk has raised the subject (unprompted by me, I may add), I feel almost compelled to write about it. It appears to me like something that is meant to be. Why else this confluence of my decision to reread it and Van Dyk's decision to write his article?

I am not writing about it to get back at people who strongly opposed me at that time. I bear them no ill will. And in a way, I don't even blame them. I don't know how I thought years ago that such a book would not upset people. I was a bit of a naive idealist, and I stumbled into the controversy with the best of intentions.

As a Christian teacher who believed that all of life is religion, I was going to lead my students through a book that accurately captured the post-World War II, nihilistic culture around them. I needed to prepare them for real life – to show them that some people are "waiting for Godot." What could be wrong with that? I tended to see Grade 12 students as being mature enough to handle it. My opponents disagreed.

A problem with language

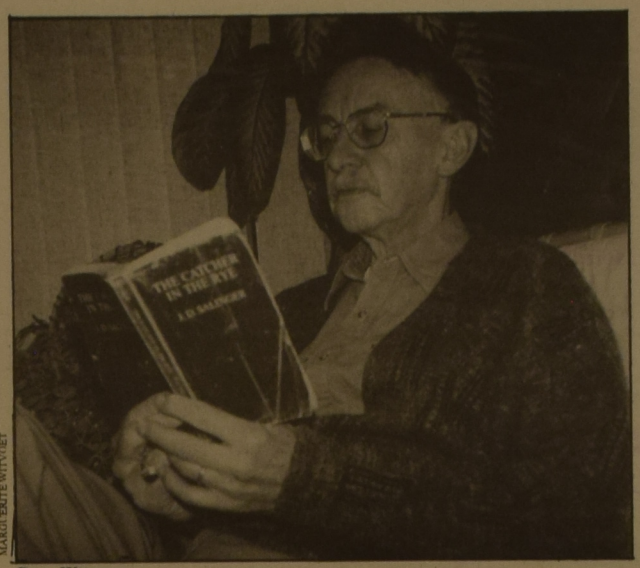
I must honestly say that upon rereading *The Catcher In the Rye* last week, I was at first bothered by the swearing in the book. God's name is constantly taken in vain by the main character, Holden Caulfield. There is very little foul language in the book, by the way. The protagonist doesn't like the f-word, and he holds people who are preoccupied with sex or perversion in low esteem (actually, he holds most people in low esteem).

But he and the author think nothing of throwing the name of God and Jesus around. Had it not bothered me 32 years ago? I wondered.

It probably had then, too, although I had earlier in my life worked in a factory for nearly five years, and I was used to such language. Then, as now, by the time I was a few chapters into the book, the language no longer stood out and bothered me. It became part of the landscape, and my attention was drawn more to the plot, the characters and the main theme.

The more I read and reflected on it this time, the more I thought that my choice of book had not been such a bad choice after all. My notes and explanations of 1967 helped, too. The fact that I had taught *David Copperfield* that same term and had been able to draw strong comparisons between these two fictional biographies made me realize again the value of the exercise.

Charles Dickens had written a book that seemed harmless and constructive, but, in fact, his was a world almost closed to the gospel. The Victorian mindset was so self-satisfied and optimistic that salvation other than social reform made little sense.



MARGUERITE WITVOET

Bert Witvoet

Salinger, however, drew a world that was badly in need of answers. In his book, characters cry out for love and compassion. The problems of adolescence are well portrayed: boredom, rebellion, insecurity and searching.

Nevertheless, the language was the stumbling block. I remember talking about it with my students. They, too, had to swallow a few times before going on. Some felt tainted by it. But they realized that it was integral to the vision of the author.

The criticism I heard later was that I had wilfully led these students into evil — I had caused them to commit "mental sins."

My defence was that I had taken them into the novel not to sin or to get used to swearing, but to make them understand how an important writer of that time saw his society. I compared it to my working in a factory, a place where swearing is commonplace. I did not enter that factory to be tainted by swearing but to do a necessary job. And I had to learn to survive. The Christian school, I argued, has to help students discern the spirits of their time and teach them to survive.

The call of humanity

But that was not the only reason I had for studying *The Catcher In the Rye*. The book offered some valuable insights that could teach us Christians a thing or two. (Today I would say that Margaret Atwood's *Alias Grace*, too, exemplifies common grace!) What stands out in the book even now is the brutal honesty of the main character and the sensitivity he shows toward others. He himself is by almost all definitions a misfit. And he knows it. That, in itself, makes him vulnerable and can help readers relax about themselves.

Caulfield is a kind of flower child, frightfully alienated from his parents and his society. But he sets high standards for the arts and for personal relationships. In fact, the title explains that he wants to be protective of children when they play in a field of rye near a steep cliff. He wants to catch them before they fall over the edge. He wants to be a catcher in the rye. It's a silly, non-productive occupation, but also a judgment on all those who get caught in the rat race of "respectable" occupations.

That's the irony of studying worldly "great" literature. While we must reject the dead-end street of *humanistic* secularism so prevalent in modern novels, we must at the same time respect the opening-up quality of the *humanity* so often uncovered by these same authors.

I read recently in a Cole's Notes booklet, of all things, the following summation of themes in *The Catcher In the Rye*: "the need for love; the search for something other than self in which to believe; the problem of the sensitive man's inability to communicate with his fellows; the contempt for purely materialistic goals and for phoniness wherever it is to be found; the need to accept, and even to love, one's fellows despite their imperfections; and finally, the knowledge that there is no escape in this world from the ugliness which is reality, which is life."

Underneath the futility of an aimless and seemingly useless life lie these worthwhile themes. It appears that ungodly books can show up our own failures. Doesn't our Christian community often need to be delivered from a bourgeois, mediocrity or phoniness?

Would I teach *The Catcher In the Rye* today? I ask myself, especially after what happened in Toronto? Not necessarily that particular book. In fact, after so much opposition arose back in 1967, I was willing to change to another contemporary novel. (Not that that would have solved the problem, because the real issue in those days was not that specific book, but a conservative, pietistic backlash to neo-Kuyperian thinking. It was the same mentality that 20 years later led to a schism in the Christian Reformed Church. *The Catcher In the Rye* had become a convenient catalyst.)

A communal decision

Yes, I would still want to teach a contemporary novel or two in the senior grades of high school. But I would want to make the selection with a group of serious, mature Christian readers in the community, something I did not do 32 years ago.

So I want to apologize to all those people of goodwill who were offended by my choice of novel back in 1967. Too bad we did not have the opportunity to sit down and come to a happier conclusion. I could have acknowledged their (and my) distaste for swearing, and they could have heard my concern about discerning the spirits. Together we might have reached a compromise. What prevented such a reasonable exchange of hearts and minds was the political nature of the event. When a dispute is about power, love flies out the window.

The ultimate victim of that power play may have been other Christian high schools in Canada. Perhaps some principals and teachers were intimidated by what happened in 1967-68. After all, a whole staff of 12 people were out on the street looking for new positions, and the board had to scramble to replace them in April of 1968. But when I read the list of books studied by Christian high school students today, I can cry. What makes us think that there is safety in studying the humanism of earlier times, while neglecting the humanism of our times?

Thinking of the students that have missed out on so much, one would almost want to become a catcher in the rye.

Contemporary novels, too, explore human nature

May Drost

"What has been will be again, what has been done will be done again; there is nothing new under the sun," says the writer of Ecclesiastes. Applying his observation to literature, one would have to admit that the concerns of significant contemporary authors are apt to be the same as those of Moliere, Goethe, Chekhov, Cervantes, Shakespeare, Chaucer and others in the literature teacher's repertory of classics. That being so, it would make good sense to study contemporary writers as well as the stuff in the "canon." I would like to mention at random three contemporary novels (among many others to choose from) that could help senior students learn more about themselves, their times and the techniques of literature.

COURTESY MAY DROST

May Drost

A Lesson Before Dying

by Ernest J. Gaines

(Toronto: Random House of Canada, 1993).

Gaines was born in Louisiana, and the novel is set there, in the 1940s.

A young black man who happened to be in the wrong place at the wrong time is convicted of a killing he didn't commit. Predictably, he is sentenced to be executed. His defence lawyer calls him a hog, and his godmother calls upon the local (black) school teacher to visit the condemned boy in jail and teach him to die with dignity. "I don't want them to kill no hog. I want a man to go to that chair on his own two feet" (p. 13).

The reluctant and cynical teacher is, of course, the one who learns most of the lessons. This book probes more deeply into the essential nature of humanity than Harper Lee's *To Kill a Mockingbird*, and it would be a good academic exercise for students to compare the two books on several levels. (Throw in *Uncle Tom's Cabin* and *Huckleberry Finn* and you have a mini thematic unit.)

The River Why

by David James Duncan

(New York: Bantam Books, 1983).

This is a novel about environmental concerns — humankind's relationship with what we commonly call "nature" — as well as the spiritual quest of a young man growing up.

The central metaphor is fishing, and there are many references to Izaak Walton's *The Compleat Angler* (there are many other references to classical works from all over the world). *The English Journal* published an article suggesting a comparative study of *The River Why* and William Wordsworth's poem *Tintern Abbey* as a way of making that old classic come to life. (Jan Shoemaker. "Bill and Gus Go Fishing: Discovering "Tintern Abbey" Along the Banks of *The River Why*." *English Journal*. March, 1998.)

Though seemingly irreverent in tone and anti-authoritarian (two qualities high school students love) the book asks all the right questions, and as an added bonus, comes up with the right answer as well. At the end of the novel, the protagonist says, "In my heart I know the Man-fisher knows best: river-armed and ocean-handed. He tends his lines with infinite patience, gracious to those who love Him, a mirage to those who don't" (290). Incidentally, Duncan was a featured author at the 1998 biennial Faith and Writing conference at Calvin College.

In a Glass House

by Nino Ricci

(Toronto: McClelland & Stewart Ltd., 1993).

This is a much more "secular" novel than *The River Why*, but it is nevertheless an honest portrayal of one young man's growing up in an immigrant (Italian) community in Ontario.

Relationships and loneliness are key issues: the protagonist feels alienated not only from his eccentric and non-communicative father, but also from the larger (Canadian) community.

His coming to terms with his family situation is a process all adolescents need to go through; his difficulty in finding true friendship is something with which most of them can identify. Even the materialism, the need "to get ahead" will be familiar to them.

Ricci's style is both subtle and precise, an effective model for student writing.

May Drost teaches English at Lambton Christian High School in Sarnia, Ont.

Serious themes wrapped in humor

Sue McKerracher

A Prayer for Owen Meany

by John Irving *(Toronto: Lester & Orpen Dennys, 1989).*

This novel is considered by many to be John Irving's best literary work. It is a novel filled with rich symbolism, vivid characters and engaging storytelling. Irving explores serious themes such as faith in God, personal worth and individual mortality within a very comic narrative.

In the opening chapter of this book, we are introduced to the two main characters: John Weelwright, the narrator, and his best friend, Owen Meany.

Owen is a small dwarfish child with a very strange voice who is convinced that he has been chosen by God for a special purpose. He struggles continually with why he is so different from those around him, but eventually comes to the conclusion that his "uniqueness" is actually a gift from God; a gift that will allow him to become "God's instrument" where he is needed most. In Owen's world, God does not make mistakes, nor does he allow things to happen by chance; there is a purpose to every event in our lives.

Throughout his short life, Owen teaches everyone around him about the need for courage and personal integrity in the midst of social and familial estrangement. With the constant support of his friend John, he takes what many would call the worst of situations and uses them to refine his character. He chooses to view his physical and social limitations not as a curse, but as the very characteristics which God will use to allow him to fulfill his specific destiny. It is this concept of personal destiny and a specific calling by God which gives Owen the will to rise above the unfortunate circumstances of his life.

Students will enjoy this book for both its humorous yet sensitive telling of the journey from boyhood into manhood, and for its depictions of friendship and faith as the pillars of our existence as human beings. Irving is a master at his craft and his writing runs his readers through a gamut of emotions, while at the same time prompting us to look deeper into ourselves and into our personal relationships, both physical and spiritual.

Sue McKerracher is an English teacher at Pacific Christian Secondary School in Victoria, B.C.

The onerous task of selecting modern novels

Stephen Payne

The difficult task of finding modern novels is complicated by the sheer volume of literature available; the lack of well-written works for young adolescents; the workload of English teachers who must find time for lesson preparation, marking as well as reading; and the tendency of modern novelists to openly explore sexuality and to include profanity in their works.

It is imperative that the Christian community collectively share ideas and reading experiences in an effort to find the modern novel classics that may become part of the English curriculum.

The Book of the Dun Cow

by Walter Wangerin, Jr.

(San Francisco: Harper, 1989)

This book is steeped in biblical allusion and teaching and clearly demonstrates a Christian worldview. The story is set in a world far removed from our own, although the planet is earth. It should be classified as fantasy and it works somewhat like an allegory.

The characters in the novel are all animals of some sort. Chauntecleer, a rooster, has been given the task of leading a rag-tag group of animals in a fight against an immense evil referred to as Wyrm. Each of the characters in the story accurately reflect the same mix of characteristics we find in people around us.

In the fight against Wyrm, it becomes obvious that this evil character has enormous power and yet the barnyard animals are given the task of keepers of the earth. This hearkens back to the teaching found in I Corinthians where Paul reveals that God "chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise" (1 Cor.1:27).

There is great reward in teaching this novel. It is a wonderful way to explore worldview in literature; the technical aspects of literature, especially the use of allusion and symbolism; and the Christian student's understanding of the teachings of Scripture regarding servanthood, evil and sin, temptation, and human weakness and spiritual strength.

Obasan

by Joy Kogawa

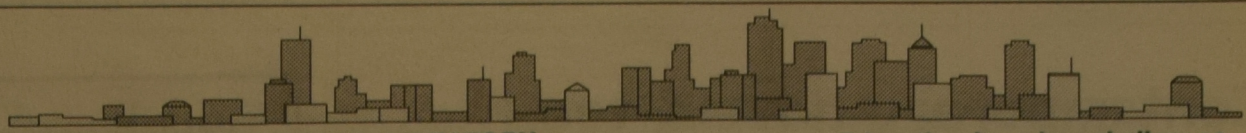
(Anchor, 1994)

This is another novel worthy of study. This novel is a splendid demonstration of the craft of writing. Kogawa has a beautiful, smooth and flowing style of writing which leaves the reader with an almost dreamy effect. Within this lovely prose style, Kogawa makes use of flashback, imagery, symbolism and dream sequences to create a rich environment for her story and themes. The purpose of the novel seems to be to reveal what Japanese-Canadians went through during the Second World War and the effect that these experiences had on those involved.

This novel is not appropriate for all high school students because of its complexity. It is a rich novel, but many students, craving for action, would find it slow. This could be dealt with in two ways. First, the novel could be assigned to the more advanced readers in class. Second, the teacher could select passages from the novel and explore Kogawa's writing style. For those who study the novel in its entirety, the book should help students explore racism, the effects of traumatic experiences on a family, and relationships between family members.

See **SELECTING** *page 19...*

Education Issue



CANADIAN CHRISTIAN SCHOOL DIRECTORY

Education for urban challenges

HAMILTON DISTRICT CHRISTIAN HIGH SCHOOL

What greater love can parents show their children than to provide an education that is rooted in the Bible, meets all Ministry of Education requirements, and is taught by fully qualified Christian teachers?

In addition, your children will benefit from a beautiful campus, modern computer technology, and fellow students who share their faith in Jesus, our Lord.

Call us at: (905) 648-6655
or fax us at (905) 648-3139
or email us at hdch@nas.net
Principal ..... Jim Vanderkooy
Dev. Director ..... Bruce Dykstra
92 Glancaster Road
RR #1 Ancaster, Ontario

Choose Quality Christian Education

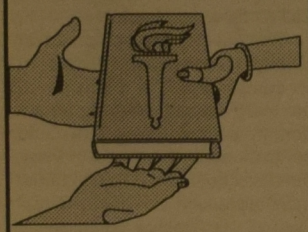
Psalm 111:10 The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.

- ✔ Nurturing Christian Environment
- ✔ Parents as Partners
- ✔ Family Values
- ✔ Character Building
- ✔ Solid Academics
- ✔ Certified Christian Teachers
- ✔ Christian-based K-8 Program
- ✔ Transportation
- ✔ Special Ed and Computer

All Inquiries to Andrew Straatsma
Office: (905) 634-3052
Fax: (905) 634-9382

TRINITY
CHRISTIAN SCHOOL
650 WALKERS LINE
BURLINGTON, ON
L7N 2E7
Serving Christian Families in Halton Region for 35 years

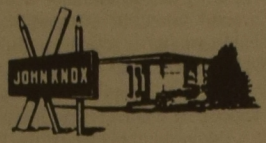
Sooke Christian School
Sooke, BC



Mr. Mark Zasito, Principal
7110 West Coast Road
Sooke, BC V0S 1N0
Phone: (250) 642-4423
scs@vicnet.com

Dunnville Christian School
Dunnville, ON
Mr. Arie Vanderstoel, Principal
RR 1
Dunnville, ON N1A 2W1
Phone: (905) 774-5142
Fax: (905) 774-5519
THE LORD HAS DONE GREAT THINGS FOR US. Psalm 126:3a

John Knox Memorial Christian School
Fruitland, ON



Mr. Julius De Jager, Principal
795 #8 Hwy.
Fruitland, ON L8E 5J3
Phone: (905) 643-2460
Fax: (905) 643-5875

Helping all to shine like Christ

Calvin Christian School
Hamilton, ON
Mr. Ted J. Postma, Principal
547 West Fifth St.
Hamilton, ON L9C 3P7
Phone: (905) 388-2645
Fax: (905) 388-2769
ccs.edu@sympatico.ca
"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path." Psalm 119:105

Heritage Christian School **Lindsay, ON**
Robert W. Moore, Principal
159 Colborne Street West
Lindsay, ON K9V 5Z8
Phone: (705) 324-8363
heritage.lindsay@sympatico.ca

"Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ." II Peter 3:18

Listowel Christian School **Listowel, ON**
Mr. Garth Bierma, Principal
Box 151
Listowel, ON N4W 3H2
Phone: (519) 291-3086
Fax: (519) 291-3086

"Celebrating 25 years of Christian Education on June 26, 1999"
Everyone is invited to an Afternoon Open House & Evening Program

Community Christian School **Metcalfe, ON**
(South of Ottawa)

Mrs. Beth Ripmeester, Principal
2681 Glen St.
Metcalfe, ON K0A 2P0
Phone: (613) 821-3669
Fax: (613) 821-3669

"Learning with the Love of the Lord"

Redeemer Christian High School **Nepean, ON**
Mrs. Nancy Lendore, Principal
82 Colonnade Rd. N.
Nepean, ON K2E 7L2
Phone: (613) 723-9262
Fax: (613) 723-9321
rhcs@wonder.ca

The Mission of Redeemer Christian High School is to provide a community of learning that challenges students to develop disciplined minds, hearts and bodies according to the full measure of Christ.

John Knox Christian School **Oakville, ON**

Ms. Lorna Keith, Principal
2232 Sheridan Garden Dr.
Oakville, ON L6J 7T1
Phone: (905) 829-8048
Fax: (905) 829-8056
lkeith_98@yahoo.com

Growing God's Classroom: Expansion opening, September 1999

Timothy Christian School **Owen Sound, ON**
Mr. Greg Ayrheart, Principal
199 4th Ave., W.
Owen Sound, ON N4K 4V1
Phone: (519) 371-9151
Fax: (519) 371-9151
TIMOTHY@log.on.ca

"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom." Proverbs 9:10

Rhema Christian School **Peterborough, ON**
Mr. Ray Hendriks, Principal
3195 Parkhill Rd., E.
Peterborough, ON K9L 1B8
Phone: (705) 743-1400
Fax: (705) 743-1415

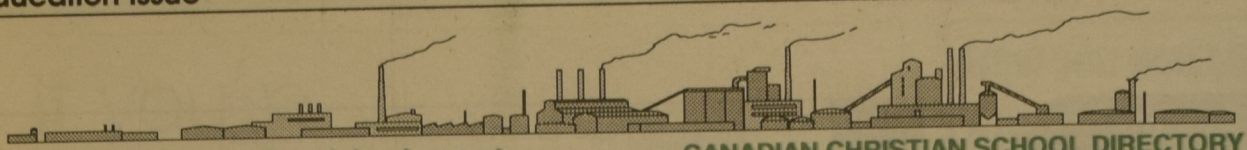
*Our **Planted Rooted Growing** Campaign continues with your support*

Renfrew and District Christian School **Renfrew, ON**
Ms. Jennifer Feenstra, Principal
354 Stewart Ave. PO Box 818
Renfrew, ON K7V 4H2
Phone: (613) 432-4340

Quality Christian Education for 14 years

Timothy Christian School **Rexdale, Toronto, ON**
reflecting Toronto's multi-cultural mosaic
Ms. Coby Jonker, Principal
28 Elmhurst Dr.
Rexdale, ON M9W 2J5
Phone: (416) 741-5770
Fax: (416) 741-3359
Quality Christian Education in a caring environment

Education Issue



Education for research and development

CANADIAN CHRISTIAN SCHOOL DIRECTORY

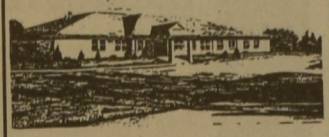
To the Christian Schools which advertised in this Directory:
Your participation has made this a special issue for the staff at *Christian Courier*. We enjoyed getting to know you, or renewing old acquaintances.
Diane Klein
Marketing and Promotions Director

Lambton Christian High School — Sarnia, ON

Mr. Wayne Drost, Principal
295 Essex St.
Sarnia, ON N7T 4S3
Phone: (519) 337-9122
Fax: (519) 337-2541

"Providing students with a Christ-centred, biblically directed education which encourages academic excellence and service to God and neighbour."

Strathroy Community Christian School — Strathroy, ON



Mr. Henry D. Wiersema, Principal
7880 Walkers Drive, R.R. #2
Strathroy, ON N7G 3H4
Phone: (519) 245-1934
Fax: (519) 245-4424
SCCS@sympatico.ca

"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge."

Holland Marsh District Christian School

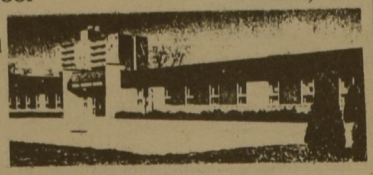
Mr. Henry Lise, Principal
18955 Dufferin St., RR 2
Newmarket, ON L3Y 4V9
Phone: (905) 775-3701
Fax: (905) 775-2395
hmdcs@neptune.on.ca

1943

Instruments of His peace, serving in Jesus' name.

Sarnia Christian School — Sarnia, ON

Mr. Peter Weening, Principal
1273 Exmouth Street
Sarnia, ON N7S 1W9
Phone: (519) 383-7750
Fax: (519) 383-6304



"Preparing students to be effective servants of Christ in contemporary society."

Muskoka Christian School — Utterson, ON

MUSKOKA CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

Mr. Jim Atkinson, Principal
PO Box 105
Utterson, ON P0B 1M0
Phone: (705) 385-2847
Fax: (705) 385-1756

Celebrating 20 Years of Christian Education

Smithville District Christian High — Smithville, ON

SDCH

Mr. Marcus B. Stroobosscher, Principal
Smithville Road 6488
Smithville, ON L0R 2A0
Phone: (905) 957-3255
Fax: (905) 957-3431

SDCH offers a Christ-centred education in a nurturing atmosphere which enables students to develop their talents to the fullest potential for service in all areas of God's Kingdom.

Wellandport Christian School — Wellandport, ON

M William J. Thies, Principal
84008 Wellandport Road
Wellandport, ON L0R 2J0
Phone: (905) 386-6272
Fax: (905) 386-7184

Offering Christian families excellent Christ-centred education and an ethic of caring in a rapidly changing world.

Covenant Christian School — Smithville, ON

Mr. Mel Elzinga, Principal
6470 Regional Road 14
Smithville, ON L0R 2A0
Phone: (905) 957-7796

Timothy Christian School — Williamsburg, ON

Mr. Gary Postma, Principal
12600 County Road 18, Box 179
Williamsburg, ON K0C 2H0
Phone: (613) 535-2687
Fax: (613) 535-1074

In harmony with families and their churches, Timothy Christian School seeks to develop the Christian minds of children by providing a Biblically based, quality education which helps students to understand God's world and their place in it, guided by committed teachers who know Jesus Christ as their Saviour.

Beacon Christian High School — St. Catharines, ON

BEACON CHRISTIAN HIGH SCHOOL

Mr. Ted Harris, Principal
2 O'Malley Dr.
St. Catharines, ON L2N 6N7
Phone: (905) 937-7411
Fax: (905) 937-1130
beacon.christian@sympatico.ca

Equipping students with true wisdom and knowledge for service in God's world.

TDCH

Educating Teens for Service in the Light of God's Word

Toronto District Christian High
377 Woodbridge Ave.
Woodbridge, ON L4L 2S8
Phone: (905) 851-1772 Fax: (905) 851-9992
Mr. Ren Siebenga, Principal
Web address www.tdchristian.on.ca

Calvin Memorial Christian School — St. Catharines, ON

CALVIN MEMORIAL CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

Ms. Karen Gerritsma, Principal
300 Scott St.
St. Catharines, ON L2N 1J3
Phone: (905) 937-6302
Fax: (905) 937-6303

Shaping hearts for service.

John Knox Christian School — Woodstock, ON

JOHN KNOX CHRISTIAN SCHOOL WOODSTOCK

Mr. William Barneveld, Principal
PO Box 243, 800 Juliana Dr.
Woodstock, ON N4S 7W8
Phone: (519) 539-1492
Fax: (519) 539-1893
JohnKnox@execulink.com
Christian Education: a gift with eternal value!

Selecting modern novels

... continued from page 17

Pigs in Heaven
by Barbara Kingsolver
(HarperCollins, 1994)

This is a novel I have not read but was suggested by colleagues. It has received some critical acclaim and I am also aware of a Christian school that has used it successfully in its curriculum. The story revolves around the relationship of a young woman, Taylor, and her adopted young Cherokee girl named Turtle.

Turtle was given to Taylor in Oklahoma while she was driving across the United States. After appearing on the Oprah Winfrey show, Taylor becomes the object of pursuit as Annawake, a Cherokee attorney, investigates what she sees as an illegal adoption. The story has an interesting mix of complex characters that would be great fodder for character analysis in an English class. It serves to fuel discussions about mother/daughter relationships, parenting, good judgment, trust and love.

This book is a long novel (352 pages) but is at an appropriate reading level for high school. As in many modern novels, this one apparently contains some profanity that may disturb readers so discretion must be used when considering the novel for study.

Stephen Payne teaches English at Hamilton District Christian High School, Ancaster, Ont.

Advertising

Christian Schools

Good Schools, Diligent Students

Biblically-Based Education

Our Mission:
To develop effective Christian schools and responsible citizens in local communities.

"...because the right principles matter in achieving high standards and integrity of character."

Ontario Alliance of Christian Schools

617 Highway #53 East
Ancaster ON L9G 3K9
☎905-648-2100
905-648-2110
e-mail: oacs@oacs.org
Web Site: www.oacs.org

nelson insurance brokers limited

PERSONAL, COMMERCIAL & BUSINESS INSURANCE SERVICES

Your Insurance Broker Understands

Ralph Toering • John Van Wijngaarden • Martha Bunker

305 Plains Road East, Burlington, ON L7T 2C7
Tel. (905) 631-9090 * Fax (905) 631-9099 * Toll Free 1-888-345-9090

REDEEMER COLLEGE

Redeemer College Teacher Education Program

FAITHFUL LEARNING MAKES FOR FAITHFUL TEACHING

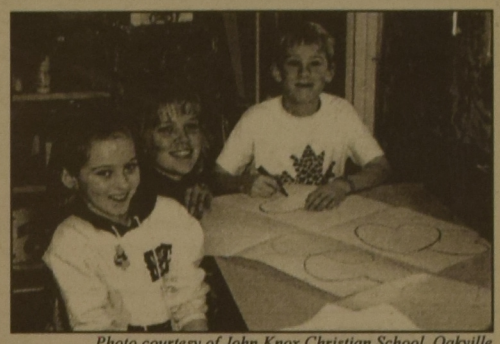


Photo courtesy of John Knox Christian School, Oakville

Good Christian teachers don't just happen. The training they receive goes a long way toward preparing them for the rigours of a challenging but very rewarding vocation. An education that recognizes the Lordship of Jesus Christ as well as curriculum and class management issues is an excellent choice for Christians who feel a calling to teach. There are a number of program options for high school and college/university graduates. All of the options provide for a well-rounded liberal arts background, areas of specialization and education courses that prepare you for Christian teaching.

At Redeemer we take the issue of faithful learning very seriously in *all* of our work. Want to know more? Contact the Office of Admissions at:

1-800-263-6467

If you already have your college/university degree, the application deadline for the Consecutive Education Program is Friday, April 30, 1999.

Summer Courses For Teachers
www.redeemer.on.ca/academics

Redeemer College • 777 Garner Rd. East, Ancaster, ON, L9K 1J4 • (905) 648-2131 • www.redeemer.on.ca

Growing into all the world

Earn a fully accredited B.A., B.Sc. or B.Ed. degree.

Discover a transforming vision of culture and your role in it from a Christian perspective.

Study with Christian professors committed to your academic excellence.

Learn what it means to serve God and your neighbour.

Deepen your faith in a vibrant Christian community.

Call us tollfree in Canada:
1-800-661-TKUC(8582)
In Edmonton & US: 780-465-8331
E-mail: registrar@kingsu.ab.ca; Apply on the web: www.kingsu.ab.ca

Begin your future at King's...
Here's what our students say about our education after-degree:

The professors are so caring. I felt challenged to discover my gifts and found strengths I didn't know I had. The standards are incredibly high. You get a lot of practical information to take into the classroom. Dorothy McGillis, Education

THE KING'S UNIVERSITY COLLEGE
Christian University Education
9125 - 50 St., Edmonton, Alberta, Canada T6B 2H3 (780)465-3500 • Fax (780)465-3534

20 YEARS 1979-1999

Celebrating 20 years of Christian University Education

the Netherlands

ALL THE NEWS AND MUCH MORE...

the Windmill

Only $23.50 per year

Ask for a trial copy.

Canada: P.O. Bag 9033, Surrey, BC V3T 4X3
USA: P.O. Box 313, Lynden, WA 98264-0313
Phone: 1-800-881-0705 **fax:** (604) 532-1734
email: windmill@pro.net
Internet: http://www.GoDutch.com
Book Catalogue: Dutch Heritage Pages

Television kills childhood because it tells all!

ADA REALTY LTD.

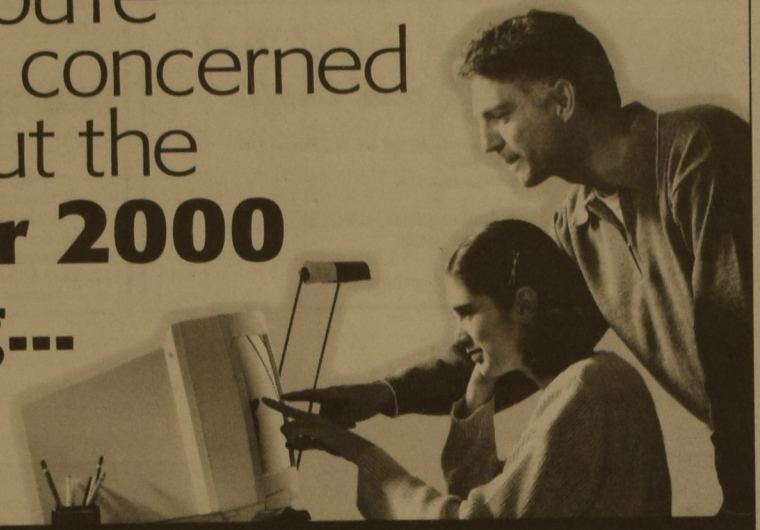
2011-137 Ave., Suite 404
Edmonton, AB
T5A 4W2
(403) 473-8149
Sid Vandermeulen

Contact us first when you think of moving to Edmonton and district.

Het vertrouwde adres.

Advertising

If you're concerned about the **Year 2000 Bug...**



"Together, we can beat the Bug!"

No one has all the answers.

But we can help.

Your computer
When the year 2000 rolls around, your personal computer could get confused. It could start to read the year 2000 as the year 1900. Essentially, that's the Millennium Bug. Lots of other electronic devices could catch it too, but your computer is the most vulnerable. Hardware, software, operating systems, data – all could be affected. So could printers, modems, and scanners. We can show you how to test your computer for possible Year 2000 difficulties. And we can help you to find out which products and suppliers are Bug-free.

Your finances
Canada's banks, other deposit-taking institutions and related organizations such as VISA, MasterCard, and the Interac Association expect to have their technology fully prepared. They are developing back-up systems and contingency plans to deal with any unforeseen events. If you have questions, you should contact your financial institution.

Your household appliances
You probably don't have to worry about your appliances. The Bug will hit only those that depend on dates to work properly. If you can unplug an appliance and then turn it back on without having to reset anything, it should be OK.

None of your equipment should stop working altogether. But timing devices could be a problem on some VCRs, fax machines, security alarms, digital thermostats, answering machines, and video and digital cameras. We can help you to get Year 2000 information supplied by appliance retailers and manufacturers.

Your car
Manufacturers say it is highly unlikely that the Bug will cause car problems. We can show you what several of the major car manufacturers have to say about the Bug and their products.

Don't wait until you have a problem to begin finding out about the Year 2000 Bug. Start now! **Watch for the *Millennium Bug Homecheck* guide in your mailbox.** For more information call:

1-800-270-8220
TTY: 1-800-465-7735
Or visit us at:
www.canada.gc.ca

Canada

Now you don't have to choose!

Invest in your retirement *AND* support Christian university education

The King's Group RSP Plan

- Safe, easy and convenient.
- Competitive rates that beat 1-year GIC and first-year Canada Savings Bond rates.
- No fees. Secure. Accessible.

Take this win/win opportunity to make a new contribution or transfer from another plan. Start saving today!

For more information contact Ellen Vlieg-Paquette, CA, (403)465-8307 • e-mail: evlieg-paquette@kingsu.ab.ca

THE KING'S UNIVERSITY COLLEGE
9125 - 50 St. Edmonton, AB T6B 2H3
(403) 465-3500 • Fax (403) 465-3534 • www.kingsu.ab.ca

Come **BANK** *with us.*

Discover the difference

DUCA CREDIT UNION

Head Office and Main Branch
5290 Yonge Street, Willowdale, Ontario M2N 5P9
Phone: 416-223-8502 Fax: 416-223-2575
E-mail: duca.info@duca.com Internet: www.duca.com

Willowdale ~ Toronto ~ Rexdale ~ Etobicoke
Scarborough ~ Brampton ~ Orangeville
Richmond Hill ~ Newmarket ~ Oshawa ~ Bowmanville

House Exchange

Family from Rinsumageest (Fr.), the Netherlands looking for a house (and possibly vehicle) exchange for 2-3 weeks between **July 15 and Aug. 15**, in the area between Brampton and Guelph. Or maybe you want to rent out your home while you are on vacation. Call **(519) 853-1757** for more details.

Job Opportunities

The Ebenezer Christian Reformed Church
of Jarvis, Ont., is seeking a
SENIOR PASTOR
to minister to its senior members.
If you are interested in this part-time position (approx. 10 hours per week), then please contact:
Mr. John Kloet (Council Chair)
at (519) 587-4145 or
RR #1, Jarvis, ON N0A 1J0.

Youth Position Available

East Chr. Ref. Church of Strathroy, Ont., is seeking to fill a newly established full-time position of Youth Director. Those who have a sense of calling and passion in this strategic ministry and are committed to a confessionally Reformed perspective may direct their resume and/or inquiries to:
Rich Hamstra, Youth Search Committee, East Chr. Ref. Church, 476 Metcalfe St. East, Strathroy, ON N7G 1R5.
Phone: (519) 245-1715.

Events

The Woodstock Dutch Theatre Group Presents

Er Loopt Een Streepje Door

Een klucht in drie bedrijven door
Berend en Rob Heemskerk

Woodstock: Market Centre Theatre
March 11 and 12, 8 p.m., advance tickets only.
Drayton: Festival Theatre
March 20, 7:30 p.m., tickets at the theatre.
London: Dutch Canadian Hall
March 26 and 27, 8 p.m., tickets at Mike's Deli.
Beamsville: Great Lakes Christian College
April 10, 7:30 p.m.
All tickets $10 in advance or at the door. For advance tickets send stamped self-addressed envelope with your order to **Adrian Rodenburg, R.R. #4, Thamesford, ON N0M 2M0, (519) 283-6285.**

9th Annual Coffee Break/Story Hour Inspirational Rally
Saturday, April 10, 1999, at the People's Church, Toronto, Ont.

CREATED FOR DESTINY
PSALM 139:16

All women are invited to attend. Please invite an unchurched neighbour or friend to come with you to the Faith Challenge Rally.

Stephanie Fast, well-known international speaker, will address us on the theme

CREATED FOR DESTINY

based on Psalm 139:16. You will be touched by her story of God's healing love and enduring faithfulness.

The Belleville Praise Team will lead us in singing. Cost is $20.00 including lunch and refreshments. Registration forms are available from any Coffee Break Director or contact Ellen Hessels, 20 Hartford Trail, Brampton, ON L6W 4G5 Phone (905) 457-7490.

Registration deadline: March 12, 1999.

THE BRITISH COLUMBIA BOYS CHOIR
will present a spectacular performance
and will showcase some of British Columbia's
most talented young musicians,
under the direction of Gerald Van Wyck, on
Monday, March 15 at 7:30 p.m.
in Community Church of Richmond Hill,
45 Crosby Avenue.
Tickets are $15.00/person and are available by calling the church office at 905-884-3005, ext. 21.

The British Columbia Boys Choir was founded in 1968 and has won international acclaim throughout Canada, the Netherlands, Russia, United States, Europe, The Czech Republic, Australia and New Zealand. It is a four-part, non-liturgical boys choir, one of the few such choirs in North America. The Choir has made radio and television appearances, produced over 20 recordings and have appeared in television commercials and shows in addition to recording sound-tracks for films. Its present conductor, Mr. Gerald Van Wyck, is well known in Toronto for his direction of the North York Philharmonic Choir and as Music Director of Leaside United Church. This March 15th performance will be their only performance in the Greater Toronto Area. It will be an evening you will not soon forget. Plan now to attend.

Gifts

Paris Gospel Text Gifts and Crafts

267 Grand River St. N., Paris, ON
N3L 2N9
(519) 442-3136

cassettes, Bibles, videos and gifts for every occasion.

Proprietor: Jennie Berg

Travel

Flights

Cruises & Packages
Head Office

DCA Travel SERVICE INC.

Canada wide
1-800-667-2525
TORONTO 416-224-5211
BRADFORD 905-775-6763
E-mail: dca _ travel@compuserve.com
Emergency Service Available
Business & Vacation Travel Worldwide!
Martinair - KLM - vacation

25

CELEBRATING 25 YEARS OF SERVICE IN THE YEAR 2000

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING THE CCEF !

Promoting Christian Education across Canada funding Christian textbooks, and teacher manuals, for the benefit of all C.S.I. member schools in Canada since 1975.
Help us publish them.

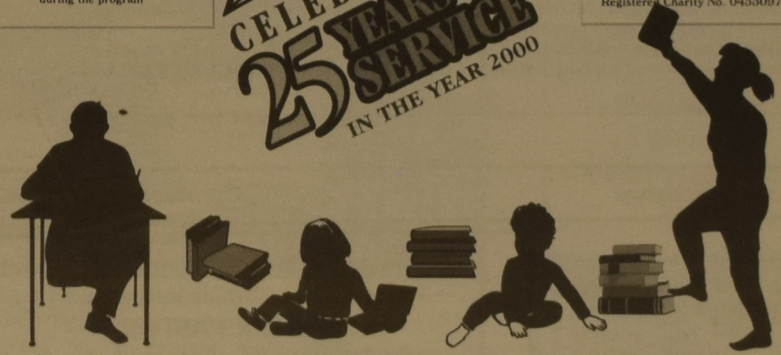
SEE YOU AT
HAMILTON PLACE
FRIDAY
OCTOBER 20, 2000
AT OUR CELEBRATIONS WITH A MASS CHOIR OF CHILDREN YOUNG PEOPLE COLLEGE STUDENTS PERFORMING TOGETHER
KEEP THIS DATE OPEN

A free offering will be taken during the program

READERS ARE LEADERS
CANADIAN CHRISTIAN EDUCATION FOUNDATION INC.
FOUNDED 1975
CELEBRATING 25 YEARS OF SERVICE IN THE YEAR 2000

STEPPING TOGETHER INTO THE FUTURE WITH STUDENTS AND CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS. YOUR GIFT IS APPRECIATED BY THOUSANDS OF STUDENTS AND TEACHERS EVERY TIME THEY OPEN A CHRISTIAN TEXTBOOK.

Contributions are tax deductible
Registered Charity No. 0455097-23



CANADIAN CHRISTIAN EDUCATION FOUNDATION, Inc.

FOUNDED 1975

For more information contact our Executive Director:

Fred R. Vander Velde
2621 Cavendish Drive,
Burlington, Ontario L7P 3W6
Tel: (905) 336-5619
Fax: (905) 336-2376

Advertising

The **Society for Christian Education in Southern Alberta** operates three campuses, Immanuel Christian High School, Immanuel Christian Elementary School and Taber Christian School — two in Lethbridge and one in Taber. Our campuses anticipate the combined following needs for the upcoming 1999/2000 school year:

- **Senior High (Grades 10-12) Biology and Science (ICHS)**
- **Junior High (Grades 7-9) Mathematics, French, Science, and Phys.Ed. (ICHS and TCS)**
- **Elementary (Grades 4-6) Music and Mathematics (TCS)**

The successful applicants will be committed Christians, knowledgeable about and able to articulate a reformed world and life view and be committed to a team approach in the educational venue. Prospective new teachers should be eligible for Alberta certification.

Please fax **(403) 223-4693** or send your resume along with your philosophy of Christian Education to:

David B. O'Dell (Administrator)
44809 - 60th Avenue, Taber, AB T1G 1E9.

Applications will then be forwarded to the appropriate campus for review.

Deadline for applications is March 19, 1999.

Teachers

CALGARY, Alta.: Calgary Christian School is accepting applications for **teaching positions open in Grades 4 to 7. Expertise in P.E., Social Studies or ComputerTechnology required.** We are also accepting applications for a grade 1 to 12 **Music Specialist**, Grade 8 to 10, 65% combination **Social Studies/ French instructor** and a Grade 1 to 12 **Special Needs Coordinator.** Inquiries and/or resumes including a statement of your philosophy of Christian education and references may be sent to:

Anita Veeneman, Principal
Calgary Christian School
2839 - 49th Street SW
Calgary, AB T3E 3X9
Phone: (403) 242-2896
Fax: (403) 242-6682
Deadline for applications: March 5, 1999

PACIFIC CHRISTIAN SCHOOL VICTORIA, B.C.

Come to scenic Victoria on the beautiful West Coast and join a dynamic and enthusiastic staff in an exciting, interdenominational K-12 school system of nearly 800 students on two campuses.

TEACHERS REQUIRED FOR THE 1999/2000 SCHOOL YEAR:

- 2 Elementary classroom teachers (Grades 2-3 level)
- Elementary French & Music
- Elementary Learning Assistance
- Elementary School Librarian (Experience and/or training preferred)
- Secondary Band and/or Choir
- Secondary Art

Teachers must be committed Christians and certifiable by the B.C. College of Teachers.
Send letter of application, resume and statement of faith to:

Bill Helmus, Elementary Principal
Pacific Christian School
671 Agnes Street
Victoria, BC V8Z 2E7
Phone: (250) 479-9365
Fax: (250) 479-3685

John Messelink, Secondary Principal
Pacific Christian School
654 Agnes Street
Victoria, BC V8Z 2E6
Phone: (250) 479-4532
Fax: (250) 479-3511

Martinair Holland

AMSTERDAM from **$499**

Book by 19 March 1999 and receive a $20 adult/senior DCA discount

Depart Toronto	Adult	Senior	Child
Apr. 26, 29	559	539	499
May 03, 06, 10, 13	579	559	499
May 17, 20,24,27,31	599	579	509
Jun. 03, 07, 10, 13	639	599	529
Jun. 17, 21, 24, 28	699	659	549
Jul. 01, 05, 09, 12	759	699	599
Jul. 15, 19, 22, 26, 29	799	739	599
Aug. 02, 05, 09, 12	799	739	599
Aug. 16, 19, 23, 26, 30	759	699	599

Sept. and Oct. rates available – call for details
Star Class $480 surcharge. Tax $59.

VANCOUVER CALGARY EDMONTON FROM $688 TAXES EXTRA

Toronto (416) 224-5211

DCA Travel & Cruise 1-800-667-2525

Timothy Christian School (Toronto)
is seeking applications for the definite position of

PRINCIPAL

beginning September 1, 1999

Our school of 196 ethnically diverse students (K-8) was established in 1958 and is situated in northwest Toronto. If you are interested in working with a dedicated staff of 13 and being supported by a committed Christian school community, we invite you to apply for this position. We look forward to assisting you in using your talents and gifts in our school to help prepare God's children for service in his kingdom. Please send your resume, a statement of faith, and your philosophy of education to:

Principal Search Committee
Timothy Christian School
28 Elmhurst Drive, Rexdale, ON M9W 2J5
Inquiries may be made by phoning Mr. William Groot (416) 743-2554 or e-mailing Mr. Jeff de Walle at jdewalle@andec.on.ca

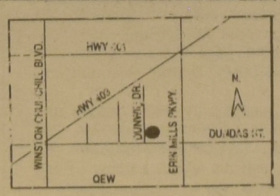
TIME FOR NEW FURNITURE?

Come and see our beautiful showroom with the European flair!

SCHRÖDER FURNITURE

... for that special item!

Our "coil" spring furniture has all the support and comfort you need.



Mississauga, Dundas St. — 2 Blocks W. of Erin Mills Parkway (905) 828-9511

Small Contract Ministry Position

Fellowship Christian Reformed Church of Edmonton, Alta., is looking for a person to do effective preaching approximately 24 times per year. The position includes some standard ministry functions and spiritual counselling. Fellowship is a lay-directed congregation with much involvement from its approximately 190 members. In our attempt to live our faith we struggle with issues of community, social justice and inclusivity. For information about the church and a position description please contact the **Pastoral Committee c/o Jim Choles phone: 780-455-4812; 14432-110 Ave. Edm, Alta T5N 1J4; e-mail: jcholes@env.gov.ab.ca.**

PASTOR

Houston Chr. Ref. Church in beautiful **northwest British Columbia** is seeking a **full-time pastor** to provide sound biblical preaching, ministry to youth and pastoral care. The church membership stands at 67 families; which translates into 169 professing members and 154 non-professing or baptized members. Please send a copy of your profile. A church profile is available upon request. For more information please contact: **Rick Delau, Search Committee, Houston Chr. Ref. Church, Box 6, Houston, BC V0J 1Z0. Phone: (250) 845-7756/Fax: (250) 845-7578.**

Classified Rates

(Revised February 1, 1995)

Births $25.00
Marriages and Engagements $40.00
Anniversaries $45.00
2-column anniversaries $90
Obituaries $45.00
Notes of thanks $35.00
Birthdays $40.00

All other one-column classified advertisements: $15.00 per column inch.
NOTE: Minimum fee is $15.00. Letter under file number $35.00 extra
Photos: $25.00 additional charge.
All rates are GST inclusive.

Ads must be in by Thursdays, 8:30 a.m., 7 business days prior to publication date.

ATTENTION!

a) *Christian Courier* reserves the right to print classifieds using our usual format,

b) A sheet with information about an obituary sent by funeral homes is *not* acceptable,

c) Photographs sent by fax *are not* acceptable. Please send original photos.

d) *Christian Courier* will not be responsible for any errors due to handwritten or phoned-in advertisements.

e) The rate shown above for classifieds covers any length up to five column inches. *Christian Courier* reserves the right to charge for additional column inches at the rate of $15.00 per column inch (GST incl.).

NEWLYWEDS & NEW PARENTS

We offer a one-year subscription for only $25.00 (GST incl.) to the couples whose wedding is announced in the *Christian Courier* and to the parents of the child whose birth announcement appears in our paper. Please enclose $25.00 and the couple's correct address.

Christian Courier
4-261 Martindale Rd.
St. Catharines, ON L2W 1A1
Phone: (905) 682-8311
Fax: (905) 682-8313

Engagement

Gary and Ann Van Eyk and John and Marge Postuma are thrilled to announce the engagement of their children

NATASHA and TED

May God bless your wedding day, October 2, 1999, and may your marriage always reflect His love and joy!

Anniversaries

1959 1999
February 21

With joy and thanksgiving to God, we celebrate the 40th Wedding anniversary of our Parents and grandparents. We are thankful to God for keeping them in his loving care, all these years and pray that he will continue to be with them.

FRANK and FRIEDA ENGELAGE
(nee TJOELKER)

With much love from your children and grandchildren:

Frank & Nelly Engelage
David, Stephanie
Linda Engelage
Anita & Peter Klemmensen
Carolyn & Scott Annable
Bradley
Richard & Julie Engelage

'Open House: will be held Saturday, Feb. 20, 1999, from 2-4 pm, in the Mountainview CRC, corner of Bartlett Ave. and Hwy 8, Grimsby, Ont.
Home address: 22 Glengrove Ave., Grimsby Ont. L3M 4L7

1949 1999

It is with thankfulness to the Lord, for the many blessings He has given our family, that we, the children and grandchildren may celebrate the 50th wedding anniversary of

JOHN and JANNA
LINDEBOOM

All our love from your children: Ed, Thelma & Frank, Janet & John, Wilma & George, Joanne and 13 grandchildren.

Open House to be held Feb. 20, 1999, from 2 - 4 p.m., at Fruitland Christian Reformed Church Fellowship Hall. 805 #8 Hwy., Stoney Creek, Ont.
Best wishes only.
Congratulations, Mom & Dad!
Home address: John and Janna Lindeboom, 998 Barton St. East, Stoney Creek, ON L8E 5H3

1959 February 13 1999

The Lord has given the joy of 40 blessed years of marriage to

HILLE (AL) and GRACE SLAGER
(nee DYKSTRA)

with thankfulness to God.
Patty & Karl Reyneveld
— Woodstock, Ont.
Jonathan, Jacob, Charlene, Derek
Peter & Diana Slager — Hickson, Ont.
Melissa, Scott, Amanda, Stephanie
Harry & Tammy Slager — Hickson, Ont.
Matthew, Ashley
Marlene & Mike Bloxsidge — Woodstock, Ont.
Tony, Kevin
Donny & Toni Slager — Woodstock, Ont.
Courtney, Kayla, Kyle, Colton
Hilda & Roy McDonald — Woodstock, Ont.
Dylan
Lori & Rob Wubs — Woodstock, Ont.
Jordan, Brandon

Home address: R.R. #2, Tavistock, ON N0B 2R0

Obituaries

In full assurance of the grace of Christ he faithfully proclaimed as a minister of the Word since 1936

HENDRINUS (HENRY) DE MOOR

fell asleep at the age of 86 on February 1, 1999 in Woerden, the Netherlands.

I Thessalonians 4:13-18

In the Christian Reformed Church. Rev. De Moor served congregations in Strathroy, Ontario; Clarkson (Mississauga), Ontario; Medicine Hat, Alberta; and Abbotsford, British Columbia.

Predeceased by his first wife, Wilhelmina P. (Wilma) De Moor-Ringnalda, by his son, Dick, and by his son-in-law, Laurens Vanden Berg.

His wife:
Nel De Moor-Vuyk — Woerden, the Neth.

His children:
Jos C. (John) & Tjits De Moor — Waddinxveen, the Neth.
Tineke & Jan Bosman — Baarn, the Neth.
Doris Vanden Berg — Grand Haven, Mich.
Wilma & Harro Van Brummelen — Langley, B.C.
Trudy De Moor — Oshawa, Ont.
Henry & Ina De Moor — Grand Rapids, Mich.
Robert & Margo De Moor — Grand Rapids, Mich.
Ary & Sharon De Moor — Edmonton, Alta.
Joanne & Dirk Booy — Arusha, Tanzania

and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

The funeral service was held on Friday, February 5, 1999 in Woerden, the Neth. with interment following in Waddinxveen, the Neth.

Correspondence address:
Dr. J.C. De Moor, Tollenslaan 99, 2741 XZ Waddinxveen, the Netherlands.

Cornwall, Ont. Sicamous, B.C.
Sept. 17, 1956 - February 6, 1999

"Surely goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever." (Ps. 23:6)

On Saturday, February 6, 1999, of a heart attack, the Lord took home

PIETER JOHANNES POST

to dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

Beloved husband of: Grace Post (Louissen).

Dear father and cherished grandfather of:
Scott & Melita Poelman (fiancée) — Redeemer College, Ancaster, Ont.
Ian & Mandy (Brown) — Sicamous, B.C.
Hope

Dear brother of:
Cornelius (Margaret) — Ottawa, Ont.
John — Sicamous, B.C.
Anne Bylsma (Durk) — Iroquois, Ont.
Henry (Janet) — Sicamous, B.C.

Dear son-in-law of:
Betty Louissen — Maple Ridge, B.C.

Dear brother-in-law of:
Jo-Ann (Jos) VanderBurg — Maple Ridge, B.C.
Debbie (Kelly) Shong — Coquitlam, B.C.

Also survived by many nieces and nephews. Predeceased by his mother, Grietje Post, on Jan. 22, 1999, and his father, Lammert Post, on Oct. 14, 1971.

Correspondence address:
Grace Post, River's Edge Farm Ltd., 3171 Enquist Rd., R.R. #1, Sicamous, BC V0E 2V0

Obituaries

Sept. 14, 1942 - Jan. 29, 1999

"...in Christ all will be made alive." (1 Cor. 15:22b)

Suddenly at his home on Friday, January 29,1999 the Lord took unto himself his child,

GEORGE GERRYTS

in his 57th year.

Lovingly remembered by his wife Wenda and his children David, Barb, Robert & Jennifer, Cindy, and John.

Dear brother of:
Bill & Margaret Gerryts — Wellandport
Lena & John Evers — Smithville
Jake & Nancy Gerryts — Bowmanville
Henry & Dieni Gerryts — Wellandport
John & Ev Gerryts — Fonthill

Dear brother-in-law of:
Henry & Shirley Nieboer — London
Evert & Hilda Nieboer — Dundas
Cora & Ralph Fledderus — London
Jane & Henry Brouwer — Ancaster
Ineke & John Bouwers — Welland
Lynn & Pete Dam — Grimsby
Harry & Sylvia Nieboer — Hamilton
Al and Roxanne Nieboer — Kalamazoo, Mich.

He will be sadly missed by many nieces and nephews.

Funeral service was held Tuesday February 2,1999 at the Riverside Christian Reformed Church, Wellandport, Ont., Pastor Don Cowart officiating. Interment in Riverside Cemetery, Wellandport. Donations to the Canadian Diabetes Association or Smithville District Christian High School Expansion Fund would be greatly appreciated.

Home address: 5998 Canborough Road, Wellandport, ON L0R 2J0

Elsloo, Fr. Iroquois
The Neth. Ont.
March 2, 1914 - January 22, 1999

"Surely goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever." (Ps. 23:6)

On Friday, January 22, 1999, of a heart attack, the Lord took home

GRIETJE POST (BERGSMA)

to dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

Arriving in Canada on the "S.S Waterman" on June 27, 1947, with her late husband Lammert Post, they lived in Owen Sound, Chatham and Aylmer, Ont., before moving to eastern Ontario in 1953. For the last 20 years, she lived in the Iroma Senior Apt. in Iroquois, Ont.

Dear mother, grandmother and great-grandmother to:
Cornelius Post & Margaret Webb — Ottawa, Ont.
Courtney, Jeremy, Matthew, Sara
John Post — Sicamous, B.C.
Anne & Durk Bylsma — Iroquois, Ont.
Rodney, Trevor, Julie, Clinton
Henry & Janet Post — Sicamous, B.C.
Michael, Josie, Tyler
Peter & Grace Post — Sicamous, B.C.
Scott, Ian (Mandy)
and great-granddaughter Hope

Survived by two brothers, Johannes and Pieter, and many nieces and nephews in the Netherlands. Predeceased by her husband Lammert Post on Oct. 14, 1971; two infant sons; and by two sisters, Margaretha and Hanna in the Netherlands.

Obituaries

Nye Beets, Fr. Holland Chr. Homes
the Neth. Brampton, Ont.

In grateful remembrance, we celebrate the life of

WIETSKE (WILMA)
VANDERSTELT-JEENINGA

The Lord took her home on Monday, Feb. 8, 1999, in her 92nd year.

Predeceased by her loving husband, Arie VanderStelt (1903-1960), infant son Bauke (1935) and Tony (1998), and three grandchildren: Erica VanEgmond (1961), Arthur John VanderStelt (1984), and Arthur James VanderStelt (1990).

Lovingly remembered by her children:
Tony († 1998) & Jenny VanderStelt
Rita & Peter DeGelder
Jenny & Peter VanEgmond
Robert & Betty VanderStelt
Arie & Tini VanderStelt
Wilma & John Mantel

Also loved by 25 grandchildren and 33 great-grandchildren.

Correspondence address: Rita DeGelder, 2085 Mulberry Dr., R.R. #1, Mt. Brydges, ON N0L 1W0

Arum, Fr. Kingston,
the Neth. Ont.
Sept. 23, 1914- Feb. 2, 1999
"Mijn Genade is U genoeg" (2 Cor. 12:9)

Our heavenly Father, in His infinite wisdom, took unto Himself our mother, grandmother and great-grandmother,

JANTJE (JANET)
VANDERTOL-TERPSTRA

in her 85th year, beloved wife of the late Jan vanderTol. She was predeceased by her daughter Oepkje Martha, brother Harke Terpstra and granddaughter Kimberly Elaine. She will be lovingly remembered by her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren:

Andrew & Nellie VanderTol — Calgary, Alta.
Kelly & Jason Cyr, Heather, Kathryn,
Donald & Kay VanderTol — Calgary, Alta.
Alex & Pam (Jack), Victor & Lisa, Janet
Harold & Shirley vanderTol — Sydenham, Ont.
Michelle & Lyndon Murray (Tyson, Chelsea, Mikala)
Michael
Harry & Wendy VanderTol — Brampton, Ont.
Jennifer, Tara, Erin
Obe and Kathryn VanderTol — Erin, Ont.
Ryan, Adam
John & Carol VanderTol — Brockville, Ont.
Rachael, Paul

Sister of Trijntje Bakker (Jan), of Wingham, Ont.

Funeral services were held at the First Christian Reformed Church of Kingston, Ont., where she was a member for almost 50 years. Rev. Chris deVos led the service.

Correspondence address:
Harold vanderTol, 2377 Keeley Road, R.R. #1, Sydenham, ON K0H 2T0

Classifieds

Obituaries

Voorschoten Holland Chr. Homes
the Neth. Brampton, Ont
June 22, 1927 - February 3, 1999
ALIDA JOHANNA (ALICE) GROENENDIJK
(nee VAN LEEUWEN)

Our Lord has called Alice home. Her sister and brothers and their families are saddened by the loss of their sister and aunt. Ravaged by many years of chronic illness, she suffered much. We are compassionately relieved that her trials are now over.

Gerald & Rita VanLeeuwen — Oegstgeest, the Neth.
Joanne & Alan Vandermaas — St. Catharines, Ont.
Dan & Audrey VanLeeuwen — Calgary, Alta.
James & Irene VanLeeuwen — Toronto, Ont.

Teachers

ATHENS, Ont.: Athens Christian School is seeking applications for a **maternity leave position in our Grades 5-8 classroom** with 20 students. No teaching of French or Music is required. For 25% of the time, the teacher has only double grades. Position available **May 1 to the end of June and September to mid-November of 1999.** Applications considered for the spring or fall openings, or both. Please send resume with philosophy of education and statement of faith to:

Mrs. Jannie Feenstra, Administrator
Athens Christian School
P.O.Box 264, Athens, ON K0E 1B0
Phone (613) 924-9500,
Fax (613) 924-1148.

BARRIE, Ont.: Timothy Chr. School is soliciting resumes for **possible teaching positions opening in senior elementary** with a need for expertise in computers, lower primary with preference given to educators trained in F.S.L. and a **definite part-time position in special education.** If you are interested in becoming part of a collegial, growing staff and have a passion for sharing your faith with children, please direct your resume to:

Mrs. Jane Tjeerdsma
c/o Timothy Chr. School
49 Ferris Lane
Barrie, ON L4M 2Y1
Phone: (705) 726-6621
Fax: (705) 726-8571

Only plausible candidates will be contacted. This application period will close on March 5, 1999.

Personal

ONE TO ANOTHER

Christian companion magazine.
Hundreds of readers Canada-wide.
Single issue $5.
Write to:
#12 923 2nd Ave. S.
Lethbridge, AB T1J 0C7

Teachers

BOWMANVILLE, Ont.: DEDICATED TEACHERS NEEDED. Are you:

- an enthusiastic Christian who loves God and notices his influence in your life?
- a person who genuinely loves children and is interested in shaping them to be compassionate Christians?
- excited about developing your skills as an excellent teacher?
- an individual who would enjoy being part of a dynamic team of teachers?

Knox Christian School is interested in people who have those qualities. Our school community is interested in receiving teacher applications for a **60% resource position,** and positions in our **junior (4-6) and primary (1-3) divisions.** Specializations in the areas of French, Music, Drama, and/or the Resource Discovery Program will be seen as a strength. Please forward your letter of application and resume to:

George Petrusma, Principal
Knox Christian School
410 Scugog St., Bowmanville, ON L1C 3K2
Phone: (905) 623-5871,
Fax: (905) 623-8877.

BURLINGTON, Ont.: Trinity Christian School invites applications for a **full-time Grade 7 teacher, beginning September 1999.** Applicants need to demonstrate a love for God, students and Christian education. Computer literacy would be considered an asset. Deadline for application is **March 11, 1999.** If you are interested in joining a dedicated Christian staff in a growing Christian school community, please send your resume to:

Mr. Andrew Straatsma, Principal
Trinity Christian School
650 Walkers Line
Burlington, ON L7N 2E7
Tel.: (905) 634-3052
Fax: (905) 634-9382.

CHATHAM, Ont.: since 1957, the **Chatham Christian Schools** have offered Christ-centred and academically excellent Christian education to families in Chatham-Kent. **In September, 1999, the Chatham Christian Schools will move into a new K-12 facility with 350 students.** The school will be fully networked and will feature a brand new computer lab.

We are currently accepting applications for a **computer specialist.** The job will include **teaching high school (70%) and maintenance of the network (30%).** The successful candidate will hold a degree in secondary education with a strong background in computers, and a working knowledge of Windows NT. Our goal is to fill this position in time to enable this teacher to be **involved in the installation of the network this summer.** If you are interested in joining this exciting new venture, we invite you to submit an application to:

John Van Pelt, Principal
Chatham Christian High School
90 Park Avenue East, Chatham, ON N7M 3V4
Phone: (519) 352-4591,
Fax: (519) 352-3476.

Teachers

CAMBRIDGE, Ont.: Cambridge Christian School invites applications to fill a **one year vacancy in the Grade 2 classroom.** Please send a letter of application and resume to:

Andy Vander Ploeg, Principal
Cambridge Christian School
229 Myers Rd., Cambridge, ON N1R 7H3
Phone: (519) 623-2261,
Fax: (519) 623-4042.
Application deadline: March 19, 1999.

DUNNVILLE, Ont.: Dunnville Christian School invites candidates to apply for a definite opening in **Grades 4/5 for the 1999-2000** school year. The ability to **teach French** at this level is a requirement. Strengths in **Music and Physical Education** will be regarded as an asset.

D.C.S. is a well established, non-denominational school, and situated in a rural setting, but close to urban areas. As a very supportive, active community, we offer a program that includes a challenging curriculum, a library, a professional Special Education program, a gymnasium, a strong parent-volunteer program, and extensive extra-curricular activities.

If you would like to become part of a vibrant team with a mix of young and young-at-heart colleagues who are committed to provide high quality Christian education, please forward your resume to the principal:

Mr. Arie J. Vanderstoel
Dunnville Christian School
R.R.#1, Robinson Rd., Dunnville, ON N1A 2W1
Phone: (905) 774-5142,
Fax: (905) 774-5519
e-mail: arievon@mergetel.com

KITCHENER, Ont.: Laurentian Hills Chr. School, located in beautiful, centrally located Kitchener, Ont., invites applications for a **possible position in the upper elementary level.** LHCS has grown to 200+ students, a staff of 12 full- and part-time teachers, and will be adding a new primary wing to its facilities this spring. Applicants need to be qualified teachers who demonstrate a love for God, a love for senior students and love for teaching. Please direct all inquiries and resumes identifying specific strengths and interests to:

Luke Janssen, Principal
Laurential Hills Chr. School
11 Laurentian Dr.
Kitchener, ON N2E 1C1

NEWMARKET, Ont.: Holland Marsh District Christian School near Newmarket, Ontario, has **possible openings throughout the grades for the 1999-2000** school year. If you have a strong practical faith and believe in serving God and others in every area of life, and if you are interested in being part of our team in a "growing" environment, please contact:

Henry Lise, Principal
Phone: (905) 775-3701,
Fax: (905) 775-2395
18955 Dufferin St., R.R.#2,
Newmarket, ON L3Y 4V9
e-mail: hmdcs@neptune.on.ca;
web-site:
www.neptune.on.ca/~hmdcs

Teachers

JARVIS, Ont.: Jarvis District Christian School is in need of a **Grade 5 teacher,** effective **March 22, 1999, through June 30, 1999.** This will likely continue for the **1999-2000 year as well (however, at the Grade 6 level).** Strengths/interests particularly in the areas of Computer and French would be welcomed, but not necessarily required.

Moreover, in **September, 1999,** we will also be in need of **two full-time teachers:**

- **full-time Resource/Special Education teacher.** The successful applicant will be in charge of the school's resource program and will play a key role in helping classroom teachers meet children's needs, as well as working with small groups and individuals.
- **Grade 7 classroom teacher.** This will involve some rotation into the Grade 8 classroom. Strengths/interests in the areas of science, math and PE will be preferred; ability to teach French and computer class will also be helpful. This position may also include serving as the school's computer coordinator.

JDCS is located in a small town, approximately 40 min. south of Hamilton. We have a total staff of eleven (including two part-time), as well as a current enrolment of 208 pupils.

Please send all letters of application, resume, a brief statement of your philosophy of Christian education and other pertinent materials to:

Garry Glasbergen, Principal
Jarvis District Christian School
P.O.Box 520, Jarvis, ON N0A 1J0
School phone: (519) 587-4444,
School Fax: (519) 587-2985,
home phone: (905) 765-7919.

OAKVILLE, Ont.: Oakville Christian School requires a teacher for a **Senior Kindergarten** maternity leave, **mid-April to June, 1999.** A **primary teaching position exists for September, 1999,** as well as possible vacancies at other grade levels. Consider joining a team of caring and dedicated Christian educators. Send your resume, statement of faith and letter of application to the principal ASAP or call **(905) 825-1247.**

Mr. Herb Goodhoofd
Oakville Christian School
112 Third Line, Oakville, ON L6L 3Z6

THUNDER BAY, Ont.: Thunder Bay Christian School invites applications for possible openings in **Grades K-9.** Send resume to:

Thunder Bay Christian School
R.R.#2, Arthur St. W.,
Thunder Bay, ON P7C 4V1
or Fax: (807) 939-2843.

TRENTON, Ont.: Trenton Christian School invites applications for qualified teachers for possible openings in the **junior Grades** effective September 1999. Strengths in Music or Science will be an asset. Please send letter of application, resumes, inquiries, etc. to:

Ike Witteveen, Principal
Trenton Christian School
20 Fourth Ave., Trenton, ON K8V 5N3
Phone: (613) 392-3600,
Fax: (613) 392-6316
e-mail: tcs@reach.net

Teachers

WELLANDPORT, Ont.: Wellandport Christian School invites candidates to apply for **openings for the 1999-2000** school year. Strengths in **French, Physical Education, Computers, and coaching** will be an asset. Wellandport Christian School, established over 40 years ago, with a staff of 15 and a student enrollment of 255, is located in the heart of the Niagara Peninsula.

Applications are also invited for a **Special Needs Teacher Assistant.** The successful candidate will be a qualified teacher or teacher's assistant. If you are dependable, resourceful, flexible, and versatile and would enjoy the challenges and rewards of serving God through aiding a very special SPECIAL NEEDS student, you have a calling at Wellandport Christian School. You will be responsible for **facilitating the integration of our special needs student into a regular Grade 5 classroom,** providing per- sonal and physical assistance and ensuring his safety on the playground as well as in school. Some knowledge of sign language is required. Direct enquiries to:

W. Thies, Principal
Wellandport Christian School,
84008 Wellandport Rd.,
Wellandport, ON L0R 2J0
Phone: (905) 386-6272,
Fax: (905) 386-7184.

WYOMING, Ont.: John Knox Christian School has an opening in one of the **Junior Grades** for one year, beginning September 1999. Please send your resumes, etc. to:

William Hordyk, Principal
Box 81, Wyoming, ON N0N 1T0
Phone: (519) 845-3112,
Fax: (519) 845-3112.

LACOMBE, Alta: Lacombe Christian School, approximately 386 students in K-9, located in Central Alberta, invites applications from qualified teachers for a **Grade 6 position.** Applicants must qualify for Alberta teacher certification. Please send resume to:

Martin Folkerts
Lacombe Christian School,
5206-58 Street, Lacombe, AB T4L 1G9
Phone: (403) 782-6531,
Fax: (403) 782-5760.

MAPLE RIDGE, B.C.: Haney-Pitt Meadows Chr. School is now inviting candidates to apply for a **full-time secondary position** beginning in Sept. 1999. Previous teaching experience and strengths in science, physical education, humanities or the fine arts would be an asset. **Qualified part-time applicants in the mentioned areas of expertise would be welcomed.**

Join an energetic, young Middle/High School team in a well-established Christian school. Haney-Pitt Meadows Chr. School is located 45 min. east of Vancouver in the city of Maple Ridge.

Send resumes to:

Mr. Rod Berg, Principal
Haney-Pitt Meadows Chr. School
12140 203rd Street
Maple Ridge, BC V2X 4V5

Classifieds

Teachers

HOUSTON, B.C.: Houston Christian School invites applications from teachers for a **possible elementary teaching position** for the 1999-2000 school year. The specific class assignment cannot be determined until the plans of our current teachers for the next school year become definite near the end of March. We expect about 80-85 students in Grade K-6 in September.
Houston is a forestry-based community of about 5,000 people. Our students attend four local churches: Baptist, Canadian Reformed, Christian Reformed and Pentecostal.
Resumes and inquiries will be welcomed by:
Jack VandenBorn, Principal,
Houston Christian School,
Box 237, Houston, B.C. V0J 1Z0
Phone: (250) 845-7736
Fax: (250) 845-7738
e-mail: hcs@mail.bulkley.net

HUDSON'S HOPE, B.C.: Hudson's Hope Maranatha Christian Academy is an interdenominational, K-8, parent-run school located along the beautiful Peace River, on the east side of the Rocky Mountains. It is a level one independent school in the ninth year of operation. **We have two positions to offer** applicants who are B.C.-certified teachers willing and able to teach in a multi-levelled grade situation. **One position also includes a principal/administrator role.** We seek those who are organized, God-motivated individuals willing to work as team players. **Strength in the areas of French and/or computers is an asset.** Further inquiries can be directed to:
Attention: Principal
Hudson's Hope Maranatha
Christian Academy,
P.O. Box 239,
Hudson's Hope, B.C. V0C 1V0
Phone: (250) 783-9420
Fax: (250) 783-9498

SURREY, B.C.: Fraser Valley Christian High School, an interdenominational school of 450 students near Vancouver, seeks interesting and interested teachers in the areas of **P.E., Special Education, English, Science, Business and Accounting, Computer Studies and Math.** Applicants should send resumes to:
Al Boerema
Fraser Valley Christian
High School
15353 - 92 Ave., Surrey, BC
V3R 1C3
Phone: (604) 581-1033,
Fax: (604) 581-1712
e-mail: aboerema@royalroads.ca.

VANCOUVER, B.C.: Vancouver Chr. School, a denominationally diverse community which offers Kindergarten through Grade 10, will have an opening for a **Grade 9 and 10 Humanities position** for the 1999/2000 school year. Deadline for replies is March 15. Please send your resume to:
Ellen Freestone, Acting Principal
Vancouver Chr. School
3496 Mons Drive
Vancouver, BC V5M 3E6
No applications by fax, please.

Job Opportunities

The **Christian Counselling Centre** in St. Thomas, Ont., an agency which has provided family, marriage and individual counselling in southwestern Ontario since 1990, invites applications for the position of **Counsellor and Executive Director** to begin work in May 1999.
Qualifications: A Masters Degree in Social Work or its equivalent; a member in good standing in a Reformed church; willingness to travel. Please send your resume, transcripts and a one-page statement of philosophy on Christian counselling by March 31, 1999, to:
Christian Counselling Centre
15 St. Catharine Street
St. Thomas, ON N5P 2V7
All correspondence will be kept strictly confidential.

YEAR AROUND EMPLOYMENT
for **Recreational Vehicle technician** or mechanically inclined person, to repair and maintain trailers, motor homes, install hitches, etc. Will train right person. Must be physically fit. Apply at **Halton Trailer Sales & Rentals Ltd., Georgetown, Ont. (905) 877-4266.**

Personal

Retired Dutch Canadian widower, 63, United Reformed, **would like to meet Christian lady,** southern Ontario. Please send letters to **File #2687, c/o Christian Courier, 4-261 Martindale Rd., St. Catharines, ON L2W 1A1.**

Christian patriot: farmer's background, well educated, traveled; passion for history, concern for the future; **Seeks mature yet open-minded lady**, 30-45, outdoors type. Gen. 2:23, 25; Job 8:7-9. Picture, confidential. **P.O. Box 95003, Stouffville, ON L4A 1J1**

Dutch Canadian man C.R., 64 years old, likes to meet a lady between 60-65 years in **south western Ontario.** Send letters to **File #2688, c/o Christian Courier, 4-261 Martindale Rd., St.Catharines, ON L2W 1A1.**

Miscellaneous

CLINTON, ONTARIO
ADULT LIFE LEASE
RESIDENCES
available 936 sq.ft. to 1235 sq.ft. Fully wheelchair accessible, sprinkler system, central air, security throughout building. Dutch and English spoken. For more info. call **(519) 233-7296 or (519) 482-7862.**

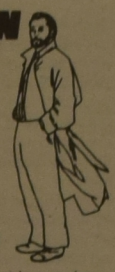
Obituary

Klazienaveen, Dr. Victoria, the Neth. B.C.
January 19, 1912 - January 29, 1999
"... and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever."
On January 29, 1999, the Lord called home his child
SYRT WOLTERS
beloved husband of Geraldine Wolters-van der Heide
Dear father of:
Nienke & Harry Van Dyke — Hamilton, Ont.
Margaret & Henry Kuyvenhoven — Victoria, B.C.
Albert & Alice — Hamilton, Ont.
Ted — Victoria, B.C.
Mark — Vancouver, B.C.
Lucinda & Mike Kono — Vancouver, B.C.
Norman & Mayumi — Victoria, B.C.
Dear Opa of nine grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. Syrt was predeceased by his first wife, Luchiena Seinen, and by one sister and three brothers. He will be mourned by one sister and four brothers in the Netherlands as well as by extended family and friends in Canada.
Correspondence address:
Geraldine Wolters, 4537 Viewmont, Victoria, BC V8Z 5L3

For advertising only
Our new e-mail address:
ccadpromo@aol.com

Miscellaneous

EH JJ SHOW
Christian TV Entertainment



Times: Vision TV
Cable Network
Thursday mornings
6:30 a.m. ET & PT
7:30 a.m. MT & AT
Also CJIL-TV
(The Miracle Channel)
Lethbridge, Alberta
9:30 a.m. and a repeat in evening
Sponsored by Voortman Cookies
Web page: www.ehjjshow.com

ATTENTION all women's groups, churches, schools, who need a **good fund-raising project or free speaker.** Call Grace at **(905) 768-5118 or Fax: (905) 768-4318.**

For Rent

Furnished House for Rent
(May 1 - Oct.1)
We are looking for a responsible Christian couple, who would like to rent our cozy two-bedroom bungalow with one-and-a-half bathroom, central air, large deck and SW exposure on a one acre lot in the **Canterbury Hills (close to Dundas and Hamilton).** The rent is **$ 1,000. per month plus utilities.** For more information phone **(905) 304-6250** (not on Sundays please).

The Living Word
Sermons for reading services.
CRC
Contact:
R. Vander Ploeg Secr./Treas.
37 Brick Pond Lane
Woodstock, ON N4V 1G1
Phone: (519) 539-2117

AOW en BEDRIJFSPENSIOEN
Dutch Retirement Consulting Agency

Als U na 1 januari 1957 bent geëmigreerd heeft U mogelijk recht op **AOW** (pensioen).
Heeft U of Uw partner in Nederland gewerkt, dan heeft U mogelijk recht op **Bedrijfspensioen**. Wenst U hulp, contact:
Dutch Retirement Consulting Agency
P.O. Box 7544, Grand Rapids, MI 49510
...of bel één van de volgende nummers:
(616) 245-9911, (616) 531-4046/res.

FROM COAST TO COAST

Back to God Hour: English Radio:

BRITISH COLUMBIA

Duncan - CKAY	10:00am	1500
Burns Lake-CFLD	9:15am	1400
Osoyoos-CJOR	8:00am	1490
Penticton-CKOR	8:00am	800
Port Alberni-CJAV	7:00pm	1240
Prince George-CIRX	7:00am	94.3
Princeton-CHOR	8:00am	1400
Smithers-CFBV	9:15am	1230
Summerland-CHOR	8:00am	1450
Vernon-CJIB	9:30pm	940

QUEBEC

Montreal - CIQC	7:30am	600

ALBERTA

Brooks-CIBQ	8:00am	1340
Ft. McMurray-CJOK	8:30am	1230
High River-CHRB	6:30pm	1280
Edmonton - CKER	11:00pm	101.9
Westlock-CFOK	7:30am	1370

SASKATCHEWAN

Estevan-CJSL	8:00am	1280
Weyburn-CFSL	8:00am	1190

MANITOBA

Altona-CFAM	9:30am	950
Steinbach-CHSM	9:30am	1250
Winnipeg-CKJS	9:15am	810

ONTARIO

Atikokan-CFAK	9:30am	1240
Chatham-CFCO	6:30am	630
Fort Frances-CFOB	9:30am	640
Guelph - CJOY	8:30am	1460
Hamilton-CHAM	7:30am	820
Kapuskasing-CKAP	7:00am	580
Kingston-WLKC	7:30am	100.7
Newmarket- CKDX	9:30am	88.5
Oshawa-CKDO	8:00am	1350
Owen Sound-CFOS	10:30am	560
Pembroke-CHVR	10:00am	96.7
Sarnia-CHOK	7:30am	1070
Stratford-CJCS	8:45am	1240
Windsor-CKLW	8:30am	580
Wingham-CKNX	10:30am	920

NEW BRUNSWICK

Saint John-CHSJ	9:30am	700

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

Charlottetown-CFCY	7:00am	630

NOVA SCOTIA

Digby-CKDY	6:00am	1420
Kentville-CKEN	8:30am	1490
Middleton-CKAD	8:30am	1350
New Glasgow-CKEC	7:30am	1320
Weymouth-CKDY	8:30am	103.1
Windsor-CFAB	8:30am	1450
Sydney-CJCB	8:00 am	1270

TELEVISION:
Faith 20-TV

Check your local listings for cable outlets airing *Faith 20.*

Alberta - Lethbridge - CJIL
.....Thursday - 9:00pm
.....Saturday - 12:00noon

Vision-TV
(every Saturday)

British Columbia ..... 7:00&10:00pm
Alberta ..... 8:00 & 11:00pm
Sask. & Manitoba..... 6:00 & 9:00pm
Ontario & Quebec..... 7:00 & 10:00pm
Nfld., N.B., N.S. & P.E.I. . 8:00 & 11:00pm

THE BACK TO GOD HOUR

P.O.Box 5070, Station LCD 1
Burlington,ON L7R 3Y8
(905) 336-2920

Events/Advertising

Calendar of Events

Please submit only brief items. Placement is subject to space availability. Lengthy, multiple-event announcements will be rejected. We reserve the right to edit the material and to charge a nominal, per issue fee per item inserted.

Feb. 26 and 27, Mar. 5 and 6 Students of London District Secondary School present *Murder in the Cathedral*, **London**, 8 p.m., LDCSS, 24 Braesyde Ave.

Mar. 11 and 12 The Woodstock Dutch Theatre Group presents Er loopt een streepje door. Market Centre Theatre, **Woodstock**, Ont., 8 p.m. Advance tickets only. Info. (519) 283-6285 (#).

Mar. 19 Calvin College Music Department presents the Capella in concert in the Aylmer CRC, 194 South St. W., **Aylmer**, Ont., 7:30 p.m. Free will offering (#).

Mar. 20 The Woodstock Dutch Theatre Group presents Er loopt een streepje door. Festival Theatre, **Drayton**, Ont., 7:30 p.m. Tickets at the theatre. Info. (519) 283-6285 (#)

Mar. 25 and 26 The Christianity and Learning Lectures at Institute for Christian Studies presents: Calvin through Catholic Eyes: A Catholic view of the origins and genius of John Calvins theology, with Father George Tavard. Thursday, 4 p.m. The Self as Eternal Soul, Thursday 7 p.m. Invitation to Contemplation, Friday 4 p.m. Christian Liberty. **Toronto**, ICS, 229 College St. Call (416) 979-2331 or 1 (888) 326-5347.

Mar. 26 and 27 The Woodstock Dutch Theatre Group presents Er loopt een streepje door. Dutch Canadian Hall, **London**, Ont., 8 p.m. Tickets at Mikes Deli. Info. (519) 283-6285 (#).

Apr. 10 The Woodstock Dutch Theatre Group presents Er loopt een streepje door. Great Lakes Christian College, **Beamsville**, Ont., 7:30 p.m. Info. (519) 283-6285 (#).

INSTITUTE FOR CHRISTIAN STUDIES

Ideas have legs.

And idea-shaping is innovation where it counts!

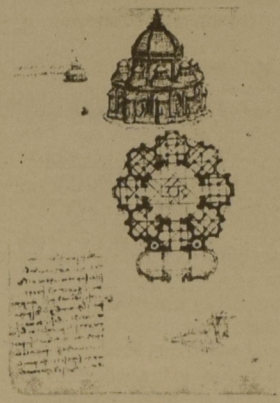
ICS

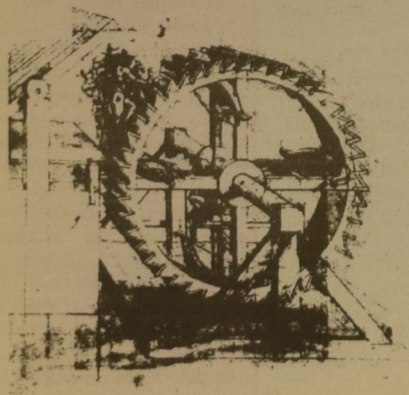
229 College Street
Toronto, Ontario
M5T 1R4 Canada

Tel. 416-979-2331
Fax. 416-979-2332
http://icscanada.edu

Ideas don't just sit on the page of a professor's research or in the manual on a board room table. They move! Ideas travel, generate excitement and development. Ideas make things happen!

At ICS we shape ideas. At the graduate level in education (Master's and Ph.D.) idea production is full time work. And we shape ideas from a perspective that puts Christ first.





Located in Toronto, Ontario, Canada, the Institute for Christian Studies is a Christian graduate school — the final link in Christian education. ICS Masters and Ph.D. Degree programs train students to more deeply integrate faith into their fields of study.

For information call the Director of Student Services, Ext. 239 (wcoffeybailey@icscanada.edu).

Students of
London District
Christian Secondary School
present

Murder in the Cathedral

Directed by: Kip Edinborough Longstaff
Director of Music: Calvin Davies
February 26 & 27 and March 5 & 6
24 Braesyde Avenue
London, ON N5W 1V3
Advance Tickets Only: $9 (or $8, groups of 10+)
Contact: LDCSS students or
school office (519) 455-4360

The Calvin College Music Department presents the Capella in concert Friday, March 19, 7:30 p.m. at the Christian Reformed Church in Aylmer (194 South Street W.) Free will offering.

Financial Assistance

Those from congregations in **Classis Niagara** who are planning to or are presently **studying for full-time ministry in the Christian Reformed Church** as a pastor and/or evangelist and who are in need of financial assistance for the 1999-2000 academic year are invited to contact the secretary of the Student Fund Committee — **Louie VanderBerg, 1662 Second Avenue, R.R. #3, St. Catharines, ON L2R 6P9, Fax (905) 641-4624.**

Application form deadline is March 10, 1999.

RATES TO MARCH 31, 1999

RRSP	Regular Fund
Approx. 5.25%	5.25%

Your funds will be invested in Christian Reformed Church and Christian school building projects in Canada.

CRC EXTENSION FUND

Fax: (416) 465-6367
Call: (416) 461-1207 evenings or write:
Christian Reformed Extension Fund
45 Harriet St., Toronto, ON M4L 2G1

Job Opportunities

NIAGARA Country Fresh Poultry Inc.

New Federal Poultry Processing Plant in Smithville is currently accepting applications for all departments within the plant. Please send resume with references to:
Niagara Country Fresh Poultry Inc.
6245 Pearson Street, Smithville, ON
L0R 2A0 • No phone calls please.

A righteous barber closes shop

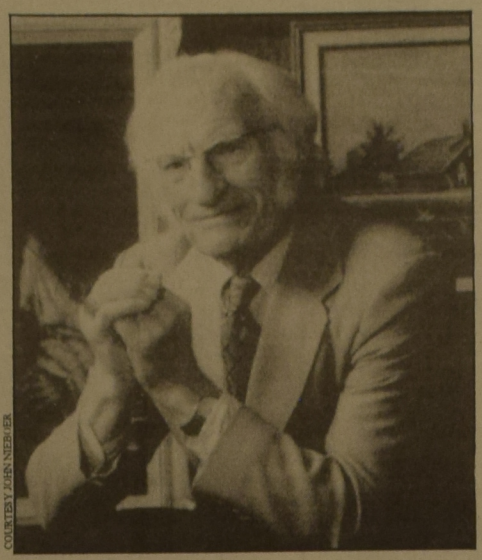
Bert Witvoet (with files from John Nieboer)

Victoria, B.C. — Long-time readers of *Christian Courier* (formerly *Calvinist Contact*) will not easily forget the column or letter voice that belonged to Syrt Wolters of Victoria. That voice was stilled on Friday morning, January 29, only 10 days after he had entered his 88th year. Syrt died of an aggressive cancer of the kidney.

Syrt was man of principle, in word and deed. Influenced early in life by a high school teacher in the Netherlands, Meester de Bruyn, he always stayed close to the central ideas of Calvinism, especially that Jesus Christ is Lord of all of life and that the Word of God is the basis for our thinking and doing.

During the Second World War, Syrt and his first wife Lucinda (Gien) Seinen, hid a Jewish family in their attic when they lived in Enschede, the Netherlands. For that heroic action they received the title of "Righteous Among the Nations" from the Ambassador for Israel in Canada in 1993. Gien's title was conferred posthumously since she died in 1959, 11 years after the family had immigrated to Canada. Syrt married Dini Vander Heide in 1961.

After working a few years in the lumber industry in the Houston, B.C., area, the family moved to Victoria, where Syrt resumed his trade as barber. He remained in that profession for 46 years until shortly before his death. He never really retired.



COURTESY KRUSENBERG

Syrt Wolters

Champion of Christian education

Syrt was well-known for his strong support for and involvement in Christian education. He was particularly instrumental in requiring new parents at Pacific Christian School in Victoria to take orientation programs which would help them become more familiar with the basic concepts of Christian education.

On a broader level, Syrt was a board member of the National Union of Christian Schools (now Christian Schools International), in which capacity he championed the cause of grassroots involvement in curriculum development. He also helped guide the Society for Christian Schools of British Columbia and assisted in the establishment of the Federation of Independent Schools Association of B.C.

Two weeks before his death, when Syrt was still able to walk to his favorite chair, he was presented with a framed certificate in which the board of the Victoria Christian Education Society expressed their "deepest gratitude for your lifetime of dedicated service to the cause of Christian education in North America." The statement acknowledged Syrt's influence in the lives of thousands of young people and his "never-ending proclamation that all human endeavor is subject to the direction of God's Word."

Syrt was not always happy to be a barber. But he felt that his life did not open up other opportunities, and he, therefore, regarded his work as a calling. He called himself a hair stylist. Already before he was 20 years old, he served his customers only by appointment.

Classy environment

At the age of 65, when most men would have been eager to retire, Syrt opened his most prestigious shop in the Empress Hotel in downtown Victoria. He styled the hair on many famous heads, including those of movie stars, BC premiers and lieutenant governors.

At his funeral, his children remarked that Syrt had a profound influence for the good on them, but that he could be very impatient, especially when it concerned "people who should know better."

Syrt never considered religion to be merely a private matter. He believed strongly that Christians should take their faith into the public sphere. He himself modelled that belief. Everything must be done to the glory of God, was his motto, whether it concerned styling someone's "unruly hair," or buying a car.

We thank God for this courageous and righteous servant we know as Syrt Wolters.

In lieu of flowers, donations to the Syrt Wolters Memorial Fund, Pacific Christian School, would be appreciated.

B.C. politicians sign anti-violence petition

Alan Doerksen (with files from Gertie Pool)

ABBOTSFORD, B.C. – After a long campaign to keep violent repeat offenders off the streets, Gertie Pool, a grandmother and social activist based in Abbotsford, B.C., got a strong vote of support from the local and provincial political leaders.

Pool is President of the Victim's Rights Movement (VRM), a group that has been campaigning for crime victims to get better compensation and protection. Recently, VRM circulated a petition asking the federal government to close Abbotsford's Sumas Community Correctional Centre (SCCC), due to what it calls "an already over-populated prisoner population in the area."

VRM called on the government to recognize that "the rights to the protection of the public come first, and that the rights of hard-core, violent repeat offenders, who have repeatedly shown no respect for human life or dignity, have their rights placed second." 30,000 people have signed the petition, which also called for the government to build more correctional centres around B.C., and asked for SCCC personnel to be given "the right to refuse violent repeat offenders and sexual perpetrators."

In a January 25 letter, which Pool sent to members of Parliament with the petition, she explained why she is so concerned about what she calls "a most fearful situation" in Abbotsford:

"This community in the Fraser Valley is encompassed by approximately 770 incarcerated prisoners.... Inmates on parole, ex-cons, pedophiles, convicted sex offenders... are virtually anywhere in the community at any given time. However, it is the increased violent criminal activities in the city that have citizens on edge and fearful. Residents watch some of the most violent criminals ushered in shackles by a security power team and soon after, the same individuals are roaming shopping malls and scouting their streets without supervision."

Pool gives one example of a convicted rapist who "committed the rape and sexual assault to one of our citizens in broad daylight in a health food store. Abbotsford residents are outraged that such a violent offender, with 63 prior convictions, was allowed to walk our streets without supervision."

Many join hands

Pool was very encouraged when, on January 25, Mayor Ferguson and the Abbotsford City Council, as well as the Chief of Police and 13 MLAs openly signed the petition. It "was great to see concerned citizens join hands in search for constructive change," declares Pool. "I've come to live by the motto that until we take seriously the most repulsive crimes, we have no right to call ourselves an enlightened society.... If we accept the fact that crime victims must pay all legal costs when taking their case through the courts, but on the other hand watch how the incarcerated criminals' legal costs are paid for by the taxpayer, what kind of a caring society are we?"

Pool is calling for changes to the justice system that would offer more protection to crime victims. Here are some of her recommendations:

- compensate victims, or relatives of murdered victims, while they are trying to get their lives together again;
- pass sentences that can't be reduced (life should be life);
- establish a tracking system for pedophiles, sexual perpetrators, and dangerous high-risk offenders.

News Digest

Priest kidnaps statue

SAN PABLO, Colombia (religiontoday.com) — A priest raised $5,000 by "kidnapping" a statue. Roman Catholic cleric Maurilio Bianchi of Colombia had been holding a statue of St. Paul hostage since he took it from the altar of his church in San Pablo Aug. 23 to raise money for repairs to the church, Reuters said. "I asked for an eight million peso ($5,000) ransom," Italian-born Bianchi said. "We collected the full eight million as of last week." He released the statue Jan. 23. It has been at the church for about 50 years and several miracles reportedly have been attributed to it.

Swedes invent fire sculpture

STOCKHOLM, Sweden (AP) – Swedes can't claim to have invented fire, but they're the first to formalize the art of fire sculpture — a combination of creative and destructive urges that is spreading across Europe like wildfire. The first European fire sculpture championship was held in Stockholm recently, hosted by the Swedish Fire Sculpture Association, which has imposed rules on the competition. For example, each team must build its sculpture within eight hours, using only straw, twin and wooden supports. Once torched, the rules dictate that a sculpture has to burn in no less than five and no more than 20 minutes, and should burn "not like a mere bonfire."

Drive-in church

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. (religiontoday.com) – A Florida church, which meets in a former drive-in theatre, allows congregants to wear swimsuits as they listen to services amplified through theatre speakers attached to car windows. Daytona Beach Drive-In Christian Church, part of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) denomination, has gathered to worship since 1953, *The Washington Post* said. About 800 people attend services each Sunday, 1,500 during peak tourist seasons. The church bought the 12-acre property in 1958. Congregants include the elderly and disabled, and vacationers who don't want to dress up. Larry Deitch, pastor since 1995, delivers the sermons from a balcony. Worshippers who particularly enjoy a solo or choir song toot their horns instead of clapping.